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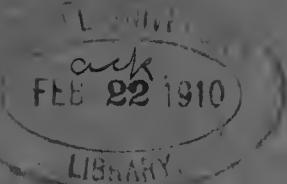
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VOL. I.

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NEW SERIES

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No. 1

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## PUBLICATIONS

... OF THE ...

# ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE VILLAGE OF SYRACUSE,  
PASSED APRIL 13, 1825—ALSO PAPERS READ AND HIS-  
TORICAL DATA RECEIVED AT THE MEETING  
TO COMMEMORATE THE SEVENTY-FIFTH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORGANIZA-  
TION OF THE VILLAGE OF  
SYRACUSE, FRIDAY EVEN-  
ING, DECEMBER 14, 1900



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PUBLISHED AT SYRACUSE, N. Y., JANUARY, 1910

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# Publications of Onondaga Historical Association

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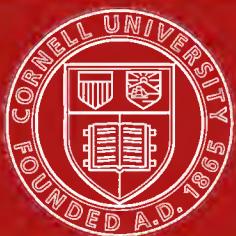
SALEM HYDE

VOL. I

No. 1

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JOSHUA FORMAN

# PUBLICATIONS OF THE ONONDAGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

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VOL. 1.

JANUARY, 1910.

No. 1.

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AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE VILLAGE OF SYRACUSE, PASSED APRIL 13, 1825. ALSO PAPERS READ AND HISTORIC DATA RECEIVED AT THE MEETING TO COMMEMORATE THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SYRACUSE, FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 14, 1900.

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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

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The act creating the Village of Syracuse passed the Legislature of the State of New York on April 13, 1825, and upon May 3, 1825, the first village election was held, the following officers being elected: President, Joshua Forman; Trustees, Amos P. Granger, Moses D. Burnet, Herman Walbridge, John Rogers; Assessors, James Webb, Alfred Northam, Thomas Spencer; Treasurer, James Durnford; Clerk, John Wilkinson; Poundmaster, Henry Young; Constables, Jesse D. Rose, Henry W. Durnford; Justice of the Peace, Daniel Gilbert.

Upon the evening of December 14, 1900, in the rooms of the Onondaga Historical Association, then located upon the fifth floor of the Syracuse Savings Bank Building, the seventy-fifth anniversary of the incorporation of the village was commemorated by papers read by their authors and letters in a reminiscent vein from former residents of Syracuse. In the absence of President Carroll E. Smith, Judge Charles Andrews presided at the anniversary meeting.

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE VILLAGE OF  
SYRACUSE.

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(CHAP. CXXIV, LAWS OF NEW YORK, 1825.)

I. *Be it enacted by the People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly,* That the district of country contained within the following bounds, that is to say, beginning on the northeast bank of the lateral canal, in the center of Division street, between the villages of Salina and Syracuse, thence running northeasterly through the center of said street, till it intersects a street running southeasterly from the village of Salina to the village of Lodi, thence southeasterly along the center of said street, until it intersects the west line of farm lot number two hundred and forty-two, and thence due south, crossing Foot street, and passing on the east line of blocks number thirty-four, thirty-eight, and forty-three, in the village plot of Syracuse, and passing the Erie canal, and through farm lot number two hundred and eleven, and the Walton tract to the northeast corner of farm lot number two hundred and five, and thence on the east line of said lot, and of farm lots number two hundred and four, two hundred and three, two hundred and two, and one hundred and eighty-five, to the south line of the town of Salina, and thence westerly along the south line of said town, to the west line of the highway, between farm lots number one hundred and eighty-two and one hundred and eighty-three, thence northerly in a direct line to the southwest corner of the lands of the Onondaga salt company; thence along the west and north lines of said company's land, to the northeast corner thereof, and from thence in a direct line to the place of beginning, shall hereafter be known and distinguished by the name of the village of Syracuse; and the free-holders and inhabitants residing within said limits, shall be, and

hereby are, ordained, constituted and declared to be from time to time, and forever hereafter, a body politic and corporate, in fact and in name, by the name of the trustees of the village of Syracuse, and by that name they and their successors shall and may have perpetual succession, and be persons in law capable of suing and being sued, pleading and being impleaded, defending and being defended, in all courts and places whatsoever, and in all actions, complaints and causes whatsoever; and they and their successors may have a common seal, and may alter the same at their pleasure; and shall be in law capable of purchasing, holding, receiving and conveying any real or personal estate for the use of said village, provided such real estate be situate within the same; and shall have power to erect any public buildings for the use of said village; to lay out, open and improve the streets and sidewalks in the same; to purchase and keep in repair one or more fire engines and other apparatus for extinguishing fires; to construct wharves and basins for boats, under the direction and with the consent of the canal commissioners; to construct and maintain proper aqueducts and reservoirs for supplying the inhabitants of said village with water; to make any necessary repairs or improvements in said village; and to raise money by tax to carry into effect the above mentioned powers; to make reasonable compensation to the officers of the corporation, and to defray the incidental expenses of supporting the several by-laws and regulations of the corporation; which money shall be assessed upon the inhabitants and property in said village, according to law, by three judicious assessors, who shall be freeholders in said village, and collected by the collector of the corporation, who shall be appointed annually by the trustees of said village, in like manner as the taxes of counties and towns are collected, by virtue of a warrant, to him directed by a majority of said trustees: *Provided*, That no tax shall be levied, or monies raised or assessed for any purpose, and no purchase or sale of any real estate made, and no public building erected or disposed of by the said corporation, without the consent of the freeholders and taxable inhabitants of said village, in open meeting, duly warned, first had and expressed by a ma-

jority of votes then and there given; and in case they shall vote to raise any money for the the purposes aforesaid, it shall be specified for what purpose such sum, or any part thereof, shall be appropriated, as far as may be convenient; and the assessors in assessing the same on the inhabitants and property of said village, shall apportion the same in a just and equitable manner, in proportion as near as may be, to the advantages which each shall be deemed to have received by the improvements or purchase to be made with such money when collected: *And provided also,* That the lands comprehended by the bounds of the village, and which are kept as wood lands, meadow lands, pastures, orchards, and in general all such lands as are kept and improved as farming lands, or salt manufacturing grounds, with their appurtenances, (dwelling houses excepted) shall not as long as they are so kept and used, be taxed for the benefit of the village, except in relation to the streets and highways leading through or adjoining the same; and the said assessors when they shall have completed any such assessment, shall give the like notice of the same which assessors of towns are required to do, and any person considering him or herself aggrieved thereby, may appeal from the said assessors to the trustees of the village, who shall hear such appeal, and do justice in the premises; and in case either party shall conceive themselves aggrieved by such decision, it shall be lawful for him or them to appeal to the next court of common pleas in and for the county of Onondaga, giving three days notice of such appeal, whose decision shall be final in the premises.

II. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall and may be lawful for the inhabitants of said village, authorised to vote at town meetings, to meet on the first Tuesday of May next, at such time and place in said village as shall be appointed by some justice of the peace of the county of Onondaga, and notified to the inhabitants of said village at least one week previous thereto, by a notice in the newspaper printed in said village, or posted in three public places in the same, and then and there elect five discreet freeholders of said village to be trustees thereof; three assessors, one clerk, one treasurer, one pound keeper, one overseer of highways

for each road district within said village, and two constables for said village, resident within the same; and such justice shall preside at such meeting, and declare the persons having the greatest number of votes duly elected to the several offices aforesaid, and in like manner on the first Tuesday of May in each year thereafter, there shall be an annual election of the officers of said village above specified, and the trustees for the time being shall notify the time and place of holding such meetings, and preside at such election, and the several officers aforesaid shall hold their offices until the first Tuesday of May next after their election, and until others are elected in their stead, and have taken their oaths of office required by this act; and in case by any cause whatsoever, such officers, or any of them shall not be chosen on the day herein appointed for the same, the corporation of said village shall not be dissolved, but it shall be lawful for the inhabitants of said village on some other day, to be notified by the trustees for the time being as aforesaid, to elect any or all the officers aforesaid, not before chosen in manner aforesaid.

III. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be lawful for the trustees of said village, or a majority of them and their successors, to make, ordain, constitute and publish such by-laws, rules and regulations, as they from time to time shall deem meet and proper, and such in particular as are relative to the streets, alleys, highways, and sidewalks of said village, and the wharves and basins in the same; relative to slaughter houses and nuisances generally; relative to firing guns and fireworks in said village; relative to running horses in the same; relative to a village watch, and lighting the streets of said village; relative to restraining geese, swine and cattle of any kind from running at large in the streets, relative to the inspection of weights and measures; relative to the keeping and regulating of hay scales; relative to public markets; relative to taverns, groceries, oysters and victualing houses; relative to a common pound; relative to the aqueducts and reservoirs for supplying the village with water; relative to keeping fire buckets, and assisting to extinguish fires; and generally, relative to every thing whatever, which may concern the public good govern-

ment of said village: *Provided*, That the same shall not be contrary to, or inconsistent with, the constitution or laws of this state or the United States.

IV. *And be it further enacted*, That the said trustees, or a majority of them, shall have power so often as they shall make, ordain, and publish any by-laws for the purposes aforesaid, to make, ordain, limit and provide such reasonable fines, penalties and forfeitures, against the offenders of such by-laws, as they may think proper, not exceeding twenty-five dollars for any one offence, to be prosecuted and recovered before any justice of the peace by the trustees of said village, to and for the use of said corporation; and in all cases it shall be deemed sufficient for such trustees, in any action to be brought for any such fines, penalties or forfeitures, to declare generally that the defendant is indebted to the trustees of the village of Syracuse in the amount of such fine, penalty or forfeiture, to be paid to the trustees for the time being when thereunto required, and under such declaration to give the special matter in evidence; and the freeholders and inhabitants of the said village are hereby declared competent to give testimony in any cause, and the justices of the peace of the county of Onondaga, resident in said village to try any cause, and the freeholders of said village to serve as jurors in any cause wherein said trustees are a party, notwithstanding any remote interest they may have as members of said corporation.

V. *And be it further enacted*, That the said trustees, assessors, treasurer, clerk, overseers of highways, pound keepers, constables and collector, shall, within ten days after each and every election and appointment, and before they proceed to execute the duties of their respective offices, take and subscribe an oath or affirmation, before any justice of the peace in said county, for the faithful execution of the trust or office to which they may be severally chosen or appointed; and that the treasurer and collector shall, before they enter on the duties of their offices, respectively give such security for the faithful performance of the trust reposed in them, as the majority of the said trustees shall deem sufficient.

VI. *And be it further enacted*, That the trustees, within ten days after their election every year, or a major part of them, shall, and it is made their duty, to choose and appoint some one suitable person of their body to be president of said board of trustees, whose duty it shall be when present, to preside at the meetings of the trustees; to order extraordinary meetings of the trustees whenever he shall think proper; to see that all the by-laws, rules and ordinances of the board of trustees are duly executed and observed; to receive complaints of the breach of any of the by-laws, and to prosecute in the name of the trustees, all offenders against such by-laws; and whose duty it shall be more particularly, to see that the public property belonging to said village be suitably taken care of and kept in order, and do such other acts and things as may be proper for him as president of the board of trustees to do; and in case of the death or disability or refusal to serve of said president, the said trustees shall proceed to choose out of their body a successor, in manner above mentioned; and it is hereby made the duty of said trustees, to keep a record of their doings, especially of the passing of by-laws, rules and regulations, and a just and accurate account of their necessary expenses and disbursements, at all reasonable times open to the examination of the inhabitants of said village, and the treasurer shall pay no monies belonging to said village, without the order of the trustees, signed by a majority of the board; and such trustees and president shall receive such compensation for their services, as shall be granted and allowed by the inhabitants of said village, at their annual meetings, and the said treasurer, clerk, assessor and collector shall be paid such compensation as a majority of the said trustees shall provide by a by-law for that purpose.

VII. *And be it further enacted*, That the said village of Syracuse be and the same is hereby constituted a road district, subject to be divided by the said trustees, and that the same be exempt from the superintendence of the commissioners of highways of the town of Salina; and the said trustees of the village of Syracuse shall have the same powers over the said road district, and discharge all the duties which by law are given to and enjoined

upon the commissioners of highways, and subject to the like restrictions and appeals ; and the overseers of highways elected under this act, shall have all the powers and discharge all the duties in their several districts, which by law are given to or enjoined upon other overseers of highways, giving in their lists and being accountable to said trustees in the same manner as other overseers of highways are bound by law to do, to the town clerk and to the commissioners of highways.

VIII. *And be it further enacted,* That the collector shall, within the time specified in the by-laws of said corporation, next after the receipt of the warrant for the collection of any tax that may have been ordered to be raised, collect and pay over the same to the treasurer ; and the person in possession of any real property in the village of Syracuse at the time any tax is assessed, shall be liable to pay such tax ; and in case such person is not bound by contract or otherwise, to pay such tax or any part thereof, he or she shall and may recover the same from the owner of such real estate or person, whose duty it was to have paid the same ; and all taxes on any real estate within said village, shall be a lien thereon, and if the same cannot be collected by the collector within the time provided by the by-laws of the corporation, he shall make return thereof to the trustees of said village ; and it shall be lawful for the said trustees to advertise such lands for six months in some newspaper printed in said village, requiring the owner or owners to pay the sums assessed thereon to the treasurer of the corporation ; and that in case default shall be made in such payment at a day and place therein to be subscribed, that all such lands will be sold at public auction to the person who will advance the amount of such assessment, with ten per cent. interest thereon, and the cost of such advertisement, for the shortest term of years ; and if, at the expiration of such notice, such owner shall neglect or refuse to pay such tax, expense and interest, it shall be lawful for said trustees, or a majority of them, to cause such land to be sold at public auction, for a term of years, for the purposes and in the manner expressed in such advertisement, and to give a certificate of such sale under their corporate seal to the pur-

chaser thereof; and such purchaser, his executors, administrators and assigns, shall by virtue thereof, and of this act, lawfully hold and enjoy the same, for his and their own use, against the owner thereof, and all claiming under him, until the expiration of the term for which such sale was made, and shall be entitled to remove from such land any buildings or materials erected or put on by them after such purchase: *Provided*, He shall have paid the taxes assessed on such lands during the time he shall have held the same under such purchase.

IX. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of such clerk to keep a faithful record of all the doings and votes of the inhabitants, at their annual and other legal meetings, in a book to be provided by him for that purpose; and in case of a vacancy by death, removal, or refusal to serve, of any trustee, assessor, clerk, treasurer, constable, overseer of highways, or pound keeper, it shall be the duty of the board of trustees, by a warrant under the hands of a majority of them, to appoint some suitable person to fill such vacancy; and the person so appointed shall have like powers, and be subject to the same restrictions, as if elected in the manner aforesaid.

X. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be lawful for the trustees of said village to regulate the number and determine the qualifications of persons to be licensed to keep taverns within the same; and the commissioners of excise of the town of Salina are hereby inhibited from granting any license to any person to keep a tavern within said village, without such person first having had and obtained a certificate from said trustees of his fitness to receive such license; and it shall and may be lawful for said trustees, by writing under the seal of the corporation, to grant license to so many persons as they shall think proper, to keep groceries, victualing houses, oyster houses, or other shops or houses where spirituous liquors are intended to be sold, to be drank in such groceries, victualing houses, oyster houses, or other houses or shops as aforesaid, and to retail spirituous liquors to be drank

therein, and to receive for each license such sum as they shall think proper, from five to fifty dollars for each license; and on granting such license, to require such person to enter into a bond to the trustees of said village in the sum of one hundred dollars, conditioned that such person will not, during the time he shall sell spirituous liquors as aforesaid, keep a disorderly house or shop, or suffer any gaming or raffling or playing with cards or dice, or keep a gaming table within such grocery or shop; and in case such person shall, during the time for which such license was granted, be convicted of any offence contrary to the condition of such bond, it shall be lawful for said trustees to revoke such license; and on notice thereof, it shall not be lawful for such person any longer to sell any spirituous liquors in manner aforesaid by virtue of such license.

XI. *And be it further enacted,* That all the rights, property and powers of the trustees of the Syracuse water works, be and are hereby vested in said corporation, subject to the obligations of the said trustees; and the several duties enjoined on said trustees in and by the act, entitled "an act to supply the village of Syracuse with wholesome water," passed 27th March, 1821, shall hereafter be exercised by the trustees of said village.

XII. *And be it further enacted,* That the constables hereafter to be chosen under this act, shall have the same powers, and be subjected to the same duties in all cases, civil and criminal, within the county of Onondaga, as constables elected by the town of Salina, at the annual town meeting; and it shall be their special duty to give notice to the trustees of said village of such breaches of any of the by-laws and ordinances of said village, as shall come to their knowledge; and the pound keeper hereafter to be chosen in and for said village, shall have the same power and authority, and be subjected to the same duties within said village, as by law appertain to and belong to pound keepers chosen for the said town of Salina.

XIII. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall and may be lawful for said trustees, or a majority of them, to appoint under

their corporate seal any number of firemen not exceeding twenty to each fire engine kept in repair for the use of said village, and the whole, or any part of them, to remove at their pleasure, whose duty it shall be to have the management, working and use of the engines belonging to said village, and the other implements for extinguishing fires, under the orders of the trustees acting as fire-wardens.

XIV. *And be it further enacted,* That this act is hereby declared a public act, and that the same be construed favorably and benignly for every beneficial purpose therein contained, and that all the rights and privileges hereby granted, be taken and granted subject to a right in the legislature to amend, alter or repeal the same at their pleasure.

## "SOME INCIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE OF SYRACUSE."

---

(Notes from the Address of George J. Gardner.)

In the course of his address George J. Gardner referred to the epidemic of Asiatic cholera in 1832, "which killed hundreds of people, prominent among whom were Elder N. J. Gilbert, first pastor of the First Baptist Society; Dr. Jonathan Day and Dr. William Kirkpatrick. The latter was for twenty years superintendent of the Onondaga Salt Springs, which was at that time a prominent position. There was almost a famine as a result of the cholera, and messengers had to be sent out for the necessities of life. There were many burials at the time in the cemetery opposite the Greenway Malt House. The consternation brought on by that epidemic was almost unimaginable. After cold weather set in the prominent citizens returned from their various exiles and business was resumed."

"Scarcely eighteen months had elapsed," the speaker said, "when a fire threatened the village and destroyed all property on both sides of the Erie canal between Warren and Salina streets. It was in the burning of the village's first museum that I saw many shams exposed by the throwing out of the objects of interest which had been gathered there. The animals supposed to have been brought from the four corners of the earth, turned out to be home made from wool and painted cloth and leather."

Mr. Gardner recalled the time when Armory Park was known as Franklin Square, with a spring in the center, which was used as a skating rink in winter. Another event of importance was the convention of 1840, seven years before the village was incorporated as a city.

## JUDGE FORMAN, FOUNDER OF THE VILLAGE AND THE VILLAGE ATTORNEYS.

---

(By Hon. A. J. Northrup.)

"Joshua Forman was born in Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, N. Y., September 6th, 1777. He was educated at Union College and studied law in Poughkeepsie and New York. He came to Onondaga Valley in the spring of 1800 and opened a law office. He formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, William H. Sabine, in 1803. He was elected to the Legislature in 1807; made judge of Onondaga County in 1813, and held the office ten years. He was the first president of the village of Syracuse.

"Joshua Forman was active in the organization of the first church of Onondaga Hill (1806), and that at the valley (1809), and had a conspicuous part in the founding of Onondaga Academy (1813). He became a large land owner, possessing a large share of the territory between the Valley and Salina, much of which, however, he lost. He was one of the most earnest promoters of the Erie canal.

"In 1819, when the ultimate success of the canal (begun in 1817) was assured, he removed to Syracuse, and he may be said to be its founder. He was active in organizing the First Presbyterian Church in 1824. The village was incorporated in 1825, Judge Forman being its first president. The city was incorporated in 1848.

"Upon November 1st, 1825, upon the occasion of the grand celebration of the canal completion, he spoke the address to Governor Clinton and his suite. In 1826 he removed to New Jersey, lived there until 1829, and then removed to North Carolina, dying there in 1848. While in New Jersey Judge Forman drew the safety fund law for New York. He was a man of great but quiet force and wisdom; engaged in large enterprises, and his life was fruitful in great and good works."

Of the village attorneys Judge Northrup had compiled an interesting historical table. The only one living at present (1900) is James L. Bagg. The list, with the dates of their coming to Syracuse, is as follows:—

John Wilkinson, from Skaneateles. .... 1819

Joshua Forman, from Onondaga Valley.....	1819
Alfred Northam.....	1824
Harvey Baldwin.....	1826
Charles A. Baker, about.....	1826
Schuyler Strong.....	1826
Henry Wheaton (& Davis), Pompey.....	1827
Elias W. Leavenworth.....	1829
B. Davis Noxon, from Onondaga Hill.....	1831
Thomas T. Davis, from Clinton, N. Y., about.....	1831
Henry Davis, brother of T. T. Davis, about.....	1831
James S. Leach, (long partner T. T. Davis).....	1831
George F. Comstock.....	1835
David Duncan Hillis, from Camillus.....	1837
James L. Bagg, from Berkshire County, Mass.....	1838
Nehemiah H. Earll, from Onondaga Hill.....	1838
Joseph F. Sabine, from Camillus.....	1839
James R. Lawrence, from Camillus.....	1840
Grove Lawrence.....	(?) 1840
Charles B. Sedgwick, from Pompey.....	1842
Peter Outwater.....	(?) 1842
Richard M. Woolworth.....	(?) ...
Daniel Pratt, from Camillus, about.....	1843
Hamilton Burdick, from Otsego County.....	1843
Rowland H. Gardner, from Otsego County.....	1843
James Noxon, son of B. Davis Noxon, about.....	1843
B. Davis Noxon, Jr., about.....	1843
Israel S. Spencer, from Canastota.....	1845
Daniel P. Wood, from Pompey.....	1846
George W. Noxon, practicing in.....	1846

John Wilkinson was the first lawyer and first postmaster. Joshua Forman's offices have been referred to above. Harvey Baldwin was the first Mayor. Elias Leavenworth was Mayor, Member of Congress and Secretary of State, besides holding many other offices. Thomas T. Davis was member of Congress. George F. Comstock was Judge of the Court of Appeals. Nehemiah H. Earll was County Judge. Joseph F. Sabine was United States Commissioner, and before him came the famous Jerry Rescue case. James R. Lawrence was the United States attorney who presented the case, and was also County Judge. Grove Lawrence was County Judge. Richard Woolworth was County Judge. Daniel Pratt was Justice of the Supreme Court. James Noxon held a similar position. Israel S. Spencer was County Judge, and Daniel P. Wood, State Senator.

## PHYSICIANS OF THE VILLAGE OF SYRACUSE.

---

(By Dr. H. D. Didama.)

The official decrees of the Onondaga Historical Society, like the statutes of the Medes and Persians, seem to be irrevocable and unalterable.

The President, following the example of the centurion in the Scripture, says to his servant, "do this and he doeth it," whatever may be his conflicting engagements or sense of incompetence.

So, whatever imperfections and failures—and they are multitudinous—are specially prominent in my brief notices of certain medical practitioners, they should be charged to the amiable but inexorable czar of this Association.

\* \* \*

During the evolution of the Village of Syracuse, as you all know, it passed through a variety of appellations: Bogardus Corners in 1808; Milan, 1809; South Salina, 1812; Cossitts Corners, 1815; Corinth, 1818; till it reached its final nominal resting place in 1820—this last name suggested by John Wilkinson, the first postmaster, because, as tradition informs us, it was located, like its Sicilian ancestor, near a place called Salina where salt abounded.

The village—as you also know—was not incorporated till 1825. It remained in this condition for twenty-three years, becoming a city with a Mayor and four wards in 1848.

Dr. Swan was the first physician who located in this region.

\* \* \*

During the digging of the Erie canal from 1817 to 1820 the amount of sickness, suffering and distress in the swampy region about Syracuse is declared by the historian to have been "almost beyond conception."

\* \* \*

Dr. Bassett, a prominent and faithful physician at this time, was succeeded by Drs. Colvin and Jonathan Day.

\* \* \*

The Onondaga Medical Society was organized in 1806.

I have a list of all the members who at some period resided in the Village of Syracuse. For all, or nearly all, the names and dates in the list, I am indebted to the volumes of Onondaga's Centennial prepared by General D.H. Bruce. It will be impossible for me to give even a passing notice of the forty physicians who joined the Society while residing in the village. Want of time and lack of material facts restrain me. I shall refer briefly to a few whom I knew personally or from reliable information.

\* \* \*

In 1823 a prize was offered by the Society for the best dissertation on "some chronic disease." Dr. Jonathan Day was the successful competitor. At the time of the prevailing alarm in 1832 concerning Asiatic cholera Dr. Day was one of a committee appointed by the Society to prepare resolutions and advice calculated to allay the fears of the public and to guard against attacks of the dreadful disease. But the doctor himself, prudent, courageous and fearless, was one of its first victims. His associate on the committee, Dr. Lyman Clary, escaped.

\* \* \*

Dr. J. C. Hanchett and Dr. Clary united with the Society in 1830. In the same year resolutions were adopted condemning the use of ardent spirits as a beverage, and declaring that for medical purposes alcohol in any form should not be prescribed to an extent to endanger the temperate habits of patients. Some of us can remember that at this very time the habitual use of intoxicating drinks was almost universal. Travelers fortified themselves against the cold of winter by drinking hot toddy when leaving home or hotel. Farmers could not secure harvester unless a liberal supply of whisky was provided in advance. No barn could be erected without a pailful of milk punch.

Some of the most distinguished members of Congress never attempted to orate unless a large glass of brandy rested within easy reach on the desk—and the glass was always empty when the harangue ended. Eminent and even pious poets drew their inspiration from the cup which cheers inebrates. And now and then,

a minister of the Gospel prepared his sermon and preached it under the influence of that mocker which biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder.

\* \* \*

The times and practices of seventy years ago have changed somewhat and are still changing—slowly but surely. The people are learning that intoxicating beverages are useless, expensive, harmful and dangerous. And the number of physicians is increasing every day who not only endorse the resolutions of their worthy brothers of 1830, but who go still farther and do not prescribe alcohol in any circumstances whatever.

\* \* \*

Dr. John W. Hanchett joined the Society in 1824 although he did not settle in Syracuse till two years later. He was the son of Captain Oliver Hanchett of the Revolutionary Army. For a short time Dr. Hanchett was associated with Dr. Mather Williams. These were the days when malarial diseases prevailed, for which quinine was, as it is now, the chief remedy. And nearly every well-regulated family had—as it has *not* now—on hand for almost every emergency, blue pills and a bottle of picra. But Dr. Hanchett had the axiom, “Little medicine but much good nursing.” From a brief biography we learn that he was habitually quiet and unobtrusive but clear in thought and ready in repartee. Once when a loud-mouthed neighbor stalked into his office and bellowed, “Doctor, what is good to give my little girl?” The instantaneous answer was, “hasty pudding and milk.” “Hasty pudden and milk? Yes, but she’s *sick*.” “Oh,” said the Doctor, “that makes a difference; you didn’t *say* she was *sick*.”

The Doctor was one of the charter members of the First Presbyterian Church of Syracuse village and discharged his duties modestly and faithfully. He left two sons—one, John C. Hanchett, who united with the Society in 1830 and was the father of the accomplished Dr. Juliet Hanchett of our city.

\* \* \*

The eminent Dr. Clary was specially active and efficient in

all matters pertaining to the preservation of public health. He was the president of the Society in 1846 and was the first president of the Homoeopathic County Society which was organized in 1863. He lived respected and esteemed by all who knew him intimately. Ripe in years and experience he died in May, 1876.

\* \* \*

Dr. Azariah B. Shipman, well known as an eminent surgeon and employed even in distant parts of the State, left in his will, subject to the use by his wife during her lifetime, a bequest of \$500 for a medical library. The money has been received, but for want of a suitable and safe library-room it has not yet been invested in books.

\* \* \*

Dr. Proctor Caleb Samson, born in 1804, was the grandson of Caleb Samson a direct descendant of Henry Samson, who came to America in the Mayflower in 1620. Many citizens of Syracuse remember this genial, versatile, sympathetic and handsome doctor, who was president of the Society in 1847 and who added to his medical acquirements the gifts of an able musician. "He was an exquisite player on the flute and a singer of rare sweetness." It was said of him that his visits to the sick-room were like "bursts of sunshine to the weary sufferers." His patients might and probably did say to him, your *visits* do us a world of good if you *don't* leave any medicine. This remark if emphasized differently might not have seemed so complimentary, viz: your *visits* do a world of good—if you *don't* leave any *medicine*. Dr. Samson passed on in 1865, dearly beloved and lamented.

\* \* \*

Dr. James Foran was known throughout the village and city—especially in the First Ward—as an instrumental accoucher. He was observing and active during the cholera epidemic of 1832.

\* \* \*

The scholarly and brilliant Dr. James C. Stuart and Dr. Thomas Spenoer, formerly professor in Geneva Medical College,

joined the Society in 1839. Dr. Spencer removed to Philadelphia. Dr. Stuart passed away in 1870.

\* \* \*

In 1844 Dr. Amos Westcott, one of the most eminent dentists in the country, was admitted. He was a professor in, if not the founder of, a Southern dental college. He held the offices of Alderman and Mayor, and died in 1873.

\* \* \*

Drs. John F. Trowbridge and Joseph P. Dunlap were admitted the year Syracuse was about to doff its village garments and don its city regalia, 1848. Dr. Trowbridge who was a prominent citizen and a physician specially admired by his numerous patients, died in 1872.

Dr. Dunlap was a faithful, gentle, sympathetic physician, greatly beloved. His consistent, exemplary conduct and conversation and his scrupulous attention to religious duties commanded the respect of all who knew him and were a constant benediction and benefaction to the whole community. He was born in 1809 and had passed his four score years when he was called to the loved ones gone before.

## PRESS OF THE VILLAGE.

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(By Hon. Carroll E. Smith, LL. D.)

An active, alert and public spirited place like the Syracuse from 1820 to 1848, naturally produces marked characters and develops striking characteristics. The village was an excellent field for individual ambition and the time for the gaining of prominence. It was so with the clergymen, the lawyers, the physicians, the business men and also the journalists. The conductor of the weekly newspaper was a man of mark, and when a man of brains and character, he was an influential personage. It was my fortune to know, and with some degree of intimacy, all the leading Syracuse journalists of the village period, and I may be permitted briefly to trace some of their characteristics.

First, I may note that there were in the larger towns of Onondaga County, in the early years of the century, weekly newspapers of ability and character, which made their mark upon the times. Not less than a dozen of these papers existed before any press was established in the settlement or village which later became Syracuse. Manlius had the first newspapers in the county, and from 1806 to 1830 they were conducted by strong men, the ablest being the late Thurlow Weed, who later made a great reputation as journalist and politician. Onondaga Hollow had its first newspaper in 1811, published by Thomas C. Fay, with Thurlow Weed as its practical printer. In 1814 Lewis H. Redfield established his Register at the Hollow, commanding the literary service of Lewis Gaylord and Willis Gaylord Clark, and he continued it until 1829 when it was merged with the Syracuse Gazette, the first paper here. Onondaga Hill had its first paper in 1816, Evander Morse, publisher, and the poet-author, William Ray, its editor. This paper became the Onondaga Journal, under Vivus W. Smith, in 1827, and in 1829, when the county seat was located at Syracuse, The Journal was merged with the Syracuse Advertiser in the Onondaga Standard.

The first newspaper issued in Syracuse was The Gazette, started by John Durnford in April, 1823, and continued in union

with the Syracuse Advertiser for six years. The first paper published in the village of Salina was The Sentinel, started by Reuben St. John, in 1826, and afterwards as the Salina Herald continued about two years. The first daily paper in Syracuse was The Evening Mail, published by Vivus W. Smith for three months in 1833, and the next was The Morning Sentinel, by N. M. D. Lathrop, in 1843, which was continued about a year, when it became a weekly and as such was published for seven years.

During the village estate of Syracuse many newspapers were started, most of them running brief careers and going out. The Onondaga Standard, established September 10th, 1829, and The Daily Standard, started in June, 1846, have been continued ever since, with a brief stoppage of the daily, and the papers being finally merged in The Post-Standard. Connected with The Standard in its earlier days were Vivus W. Smith, Silas F., Thomas A. and Asahel L. Smith, a family of newspaper men who spent their lives in that pursuit. Other conductors were John F. Wyman, William L. Crandall, Marcellus Farmer, P. H. Agan, Moses and William Summers. The Western State Journal, started March 20th, 1839, by V. W. and S. F. Smith, who for political reasons had separated from The Standard, and it later became The Weekly Journal and The Daily Journal, the latter established July 4th, 1844, the first successful daily here. Later conductors of these papers were Henry Barnes, Augustus S. Smith, Seth Haight, T. S. and J. G. K. Truair, with V. W. Smith, Edward Cooper, George Terwilliger, Andrew Shuman, Anson G. Chester, Rodney L. Adams and others as its editors.

The Syracuse Star was an independent daily from 1846 until 1853, and passed through many vicissitudes and sensations. James Kinney, Francis A. Marsh, George F. Comstock, Winslow M. Watson, S. Corning Judd and Edward Hoagland were its conductors. Out of The Star came The Syracuse Courier, Daily and Weekly, which flourished in the city period. Its successor is The Evening Telegram. In the city period also came The Syracuse Evening Herald, founded January 15th, 1877, by Arthur Jenkins, and it has continued under his management at the head

of the Herald Company ever since and has won a phenomenal success. It is an independent journal, which by the aid of pictorial illustrations, which it introduced in its field, and by numerous expedients of sensational enterprise has become a leading newspaper in Central New York. The starting of The Morning Post and the consolidation with it of The Standard have furnished an able and enterprising newspaper in the morning field.

In national campaigns of former years special political publications of high merit were issued. The Bugle Blast, 1844, and The Clay Banner, 1848, were Whig campaign papers, issued by S. F. Smith; and Young Hickory by Smith and Farmer, 1844. The Free Soil Campaigner by Agan and Smith in 1848, were the principal of these.

These were the principal newspapers issued in Syracuse during its history as a village, and some of them continued into its cityhood, but in the course of half a century there were numerous weekly and daily newspapers started, the memory of which has mainly faded out from the public mind. There were many experiments in political, literary, educational, religious and miscellaneous publications, which had temporary purposes and having done their work or failed in it, they were discontinued.

There were unique publications in the early journalism in this place. Gerrit Smith was the actual editorial writer for The Liberty Party Paper, which he supported and circulated in the anti-slavery crusade in 1848-50. The distinguished lawyer, George F. Comstock, was the real editor of the Syracuse Star in the same period, when that paper espoused the pro-slavery cause and defended the fugitive slave law. Judge Daniel Pratt and Judge William C. Ruger were interested in The Courier and contributed to its columns.

One of the earliest of the local newspaper men was Joseph B. Clark, best known as "Veto" Clark, from his habit of carrying in his pocket copies of President Jackson's veto messages, on which he based heated political discussions at the street corners. He was peculiar in appearance and manner, and he alternated his newspaper work with that of the volunteer and silent mourner who fol-

lowed cholera victims to their burial in the midnight hour during the terrible seasons of that epidemic, 1832-34.

John Durnford, the first Syracuse publisher, was a stalwart personage, a native of the West Indies. His newspaper antedated the village corporation. Its first issue contained one mercantile advertisement and half a dozen patent medicine advertisements. He was a practical philanthropist and served as Overseer of the Poor as much for the love of doing good as for the compensation of the office. He was the first Village Treasurer and filled other offices of trust. He lived to a good old age and saw the early predictions of a large city fulfilled.

Hiram Cummings was an eccentric personage, who delighted in lofty titles and exalted personal airs. He called his paper *The Empire State Democrat* and *Onondaga County Review*, a staggering name for a commonplace weekly. When John Tyler as President lost all his former-time friends, Cummings in his paper spoke for him here, and in return he was made distributor of official patronage, which he dispensed with a lofty hand. This was a ludicrous side of politics.

Quite different but on similar lines S. Corning Judd, as conductor of the *Star*, became the Fillmore agent and dispenser of federal offices in this county. He it was who went into local history by issuing daily bulletins as clerk of the Health Board in a cholera season, in these words: "No more cholera by order of the Board. S. Corning Judd, clerk." In his time the post-office was in the east wing of the old Syracuse House, and it was Judd's every morning habit to appear at the delivery window and shout: "Anything from Washington this morning?" If answered in the negative he would add: "Wonder what in Hades the administration is doing." Judd removed to Illinois and became a high churchman of influence.

Washington Van Zandt, a retired clergyman of great brilliancy, edited the *Star* and the *Transcript* in late village days. He was a polished writer and indited poetical editorials. His career as journalist, like that of clergyman, was brief and unsatisfactory because of the lack of moral stamina.

John Newland Moffit, also a brilliant but erratic preacher, essayed journalism with meteoric and startling effects. He later went to Mobile, and in the war of the Rebellion commanded a famous rebel privateer.

Robert R. Raymond was another brilliant preacher and writer. He had an attractive personality and was successful both in the pulpit and on the tripod. He was an advanced abolitionist, and when "Jerry" was in the custody of the United States Marshals he openly advocated the rescue of the fugitive and denounced the fugitive slave law as an iniquitous enactment which should be disregarded. He became the foremost Shaksperean scholar and interpreter in the country. While editor of the Evening Chronicle he exhibited a peculiarity in writing editorials continued from day to day like a serial story. But he always wrote well.

William L. Crandall had been an old Hunker, Pro-Slavery editor, but when "Jerry" was in captivity as a fugitive from slavery he could no longer restrain his liberty-loving feeling, and gave evidence of it by breaking into the First Presbyterian Church, climbing into the steeple, and standing upon the trap door so as to prevent interference, he caused the bell to ring out liberty peals which called the people together to assert the right of individual liberty. He also was a foremost advocate of the free school system and published educational books.

Thomas L. Carson was the conductor of the State League, a temperance publication, and the originator of the Carson league, whose purpose was the suppression by moral suasion of the bar and the saloon. He spent a moderate fortune in furthering the reform of evils which he himself had experienced.

Levi W. Hall was the editor for several years of the District School Journal, the organ of the State School Department; he published several literary papers and conducted a successful family journal. He gave to the world Fremont's expedition in the Rocky Mountains in book form. He it was who got the word "Skedaddle" recognized in Webster's dictionary.

Winslow M. Watson, a former Washington correspondent, distinguished himself in the Star by elaborate biographies of pub-

lic men. He had a faculty of knowing everybody and of telling a great deal about them.

General William H. Moseley conducted the Syracusean and Onondaga County Review, which was published early in the village's existence and occasionally in later times. His little weekly was as eccentric as its publisher. He had been a general of militia down East, and that and the fact that he was the first store-keeper on the site of the Wieting Opera House formed the capital stock on which he subsisted. He might have been the model of Dickens' "Turveydrop" or "Micawber." In his genial, hopeful good nature the courtly old General always was looking for something to turn up to his advantage.

John F. Wyman was a sterling citizen and successful publisher, who had an active part in launching newspapers with permanent careers. In his heyday there was a local social division on the lines of aristocracy and the common people. The issue came to a climax at a ball held in the Mansion House Hall. The company divided, each faction taking a side of the house. Wyman was left standing in the middle, alone. Being asked why he did not go to one side or the other, he declared that he belonged to neither; that he was neither patrician nor plebeian; that in fact he was an artisan. This was his notion of the journalist's rank in society.

In a like division John K. Barlow, a kindly man and a good newspaper worker, went to the aristocratic side, and one day, dressed in the height of fashion, as he was passing along Genesee street, in front of the Franklin Building he encountered a house painter on a ladder, whom he ordered out of his way, whereupon the painter, possibly by accident, upset his paint pot over Barlow, smearing his tall hat and broadcloth clothes with the paint. The incident created an amusing sensation.

Patrick H. Agan, for twenty years the Standard's editor, was conservative and moderate. He was prominent in affairs and held offices of trust. In late years he wrote elaborately on the early history of county and city.

Judge William C. Ruger had a fondness for newspaper con-

troversy and was the author of an exhaustive series of articles with the object of proving that the Cardiff giant was a petrified man. He made a clear and positive lawyer-like argument.

Joshua Forman, the founder of Syracuse, was a frequent contributor to the local press. He wrote the ablest series of newspaper articles published, in advocacy of the Erie canal project, its feasibility and prospective value. He also clearly foreshadowed the future of Syracuse, in which he had an abounding faith.

John Wilkinson, who was Forman's associate in laying out Syracuse as a village, and suggested its name, also was a frequent newspaper contributor, and he published a series of strong articles favoring the sale by the State of its canal properties. He also wrote forcibly on railroad topics.

A family of Smiths produced journalists in three generations. Five brothers, Vivus W., Thomas A., Asahel L., Silas F. and Augustus S. Smith, came here from Berkshire County, Mass., and were conspicuous in the journalism of both village and city for more than half a century. Vivus W., it is agreed, was the strongest political writer this locality ever had. Thomas A. was a student of literature and a poet of merit. The others were practical newspaper managers, and to Silas F. is due the credit of first introducing the distinct local news department into daily newspapers. Of this family the second and third generations have followed in journalistic footsteps.

George J. Gardner came here in 1829, when L. H. Redfield bought his Register, and was with him for several years in that paper. He then graduated into the book trade, became a fireman and militiaman in the early village, a banker, an Alderman of the city, an Odd Fellow and Mason of national renown and a local historian.

Marcellus Farmer, was from the South, and in a brief career here made his mark. He managed the Standard and then the Journal. He was a shrewd business man, a good journalist. Going to California with the argonauts, he accumulated wealth, and on a sea voyage went down with the Central America steamship off Hatteras.

William H. Burleigh, author, orator, poet and reformer, one of the brilliant Burleigh brothers, who so ably advanced anti-slavery discussion, conducted the Temperance Protector, and was an intellectual influence in the community.

Other names of prominence occurring to me are those of Luther Lee, Joseph Barber, Seth Hawley, J. M. Patterson, Gen. John A. Green and Gen. John J. Peck, each of whom at some time years ago had journalistic relations. On this side of the date of city organization is a long list of able men who have been actively or tentatively concerned in journalism in Syracuse and have done strong and useful work in the local press.

Scores of other persons, many of them of marked characteristic, took a part in local journalism, and although their careers were brief in this relation, many bright though transitory records were made. One of the best of the purely literary publications was The Literary Union, issued for a year and a half about the time of the change from village to city, by James M. Winchell, later United States Senator from Kansas, James Johonnot and W. W. Newman, all well known school teachers, the last named surviving.

The German political press was able and influential. Its pioneer was George Saul, with the Onondaga Democrat, and later the Syracuse Democrat; which became the Syracuse Union; and the Syracuse Central Demokrat, started by Joseph A. Hoffman.

The religious press has at times had strong representatives here. The Religious Recorder, The Wesleyan, The Evangelical Pulpit, The Northern Christian Advocate, The Gospel Messenger and The Catholic Sun have been the principal of these in the village and city periods.

In these brief references to the newspapers and newspaper makers in Syracuse, necessarily the line between village and city has been crossed; but I do not attempt to treat, even cursorily, the press since the city's organization.

There was an occasional feature in the early village newspaper field, viz., the "switch" that happily passed out of existence on

journalism taking on higher character. The afterwards distinguished critic of writers and their works, Rufus W. Griswold, issued the spicy little weekly, *The Porcupine*, when he was just coming into manhood. It dealt mainly in personal scandals and vitriolic attacks upon prominent people. Later on, A. B. F. Ormsby issued *The Spy*, which was a sensation monger that performed no good object. "Long John" Abbott for a year or two edited *The Archimedian*, a paper of the same class. Abbott, tall, lank and cadaverous, was an original and unique personage, of genial and happy disposition, whose sensation mongering had no trace of bitterness.

The *Impartial Citizen* was issued during the period of intensest Abolition agitation, by Samuel R. Ward, a genuine negro of marked ability and attic wit. He had been a slave and was a fugitive. He was a magnetic preacher and a forceful newspaper writer. His paper was able and serviceable.

There were in that epoch of journalism very bitter political rivalries, and intense personal feeling was often manifested by editors of opposing faiths and interests. It was an era of personal controversy and not infrequently abuse and billingsgate usurped the place of legitimate argument. This feature gradually wore away, and gave place to the amenities and courtesies which far better grace a lofty and influential profession, whose functions bear close relationship with the great public and should be conducted upon the highest plane of dignity, integrity and honor.

The weekly issue answered for those times. Its production was in few hands. I have seen the distinguished editor who had put powerful effort into the columns of his paper, operate laboriously the hand press that printed the weekly edition. And the publisher and business man engaged in mailing the copies. It was only two years before Syracuse was made a city that the first steam power press was set up here, and that press was a marvel in that it printed 1,200 copies in an hour.

Now the steam press produces 20,000 copies or more per hour, and electricity does the mailing. In the '30s there was no telegraph, the railroads were just coming in, and the slow mail and

faster postrider carried news from town to town and the printed sheets were likewise circulated. It was at just the time that the steam press came into use that telegraph bulletins began to be transmitted. Before that the news heading in the paper was "By Post," with a postman on horseback pictured. Then came the heading "By Telegraph," and poles and wires and forked lightning constituted the picture. President's and Governor's messages were transmitted by horseback riders, with relays along the route, and in an early Syracuse instance, vividly recalled, the rider, who had outdistanced competition, brought hither the message in triumph, he astride a cannon, which had announced his coming. In those days the first newspaper page was filled with foreign intelligence a fortnight old, Congressional proceedings a week old, and on other pages were the "Poet's Corner," a story column, and a few news paragraphs, while the editorial leader discussed a single prominent topic in from one to three columns, and perhaps there followed two or three paragraphs of general or local news. The advertisements of those times are even now especially interesting; they were original, unique and often fantastic. Nevertheless, in the slower times, before railroads and telegraphs and telephones, the people were newspaper readers and they were intelligent and well informed. Public questions were well considered and wisely acted upon. In these more rapid times of steam and electricity, there is more elaborateness and more speed, and the news of the world is in detail spread out in the printed sheet at breakfast and at tea time. The printed sheet has superceded the platform and the orator, and it fills the place of the pulpit and preacher. What was a luxury in the earlier times is now a necessity of daily life.

## BUSINESS MEN OF THE VILLAGE.

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(By John T. Roberts.)

The beginnings of history, like the edges of that dear old coat, or the outskirts of even our very tidy towns, are apt to be ragged. History overtakes us unawares. We are in it without warning and without intention of our own; and we are out of it when we most desire to be counted as factors. If people could only know, when they enter into relations or enter upon undertakings, if they could comprehend that they are beginning to be pioneers and are making of themselves somebody's ancestors, surely then they would dress up their conduct and prepare for shapely fortunes. As it is we find that the beginnings of great things are often of the meanest type, and much of the story has to be suppressed or told in whispers on anniversary days.

Our Onondaga Herodotus tells us that the first Syracuse merchant was one Dole,—a name that probably described his case and his surroundings. We know him only in name. The location of his store was undoubtedly on the North Side, but the evidence on which I base this conclusion I must not here examine. Let the North Side have Dole without another word.

Of General Granger's store, on the site of the present Gridley Block, there is little recorded information, though the permanence of proprietorship in his case gave the store unwritten fame down to quite recent times. General Granger either spurned the advantages of advertising or else his political bias kept him from relations with the village printer, Mr. John Durnford.

It would be impossible in this brief exercise to even call the roll of the men who at the outset constituted the business fraternity and made the town what it was by their faith and their works, and I shall limit my attempts to the mentioning of a few of those who, while wisely seeking trade, embalmed their memories in printer's ink.

A complete and well preserved set of Mr. Durnford's Syracuse Gazette is on file in these rooms, and these old sheets tell us about all that is easily discoverable about most of the business men of the earliest Syracuse. To be sure the news columns of

the paper are absolutely silent on local affairs. Even so momentous an event as that which we commemorate to-night was mentioned at the time only in three lines of print, (April 13, 1825), and was never afterwards referred to. But the business advertising of that time was most instructive. Every merchant or mechanic or professional man, who paid the editor for announcing to the public where he was to be found and what he had to sell, was contributing important material for the construction of Onondaga County's ancient history. They took the greatest pains, sometimes extending the effort through a half dozen lines, to exactly locate their places of business. This is partly explainable from the fact that the place was new, and each new comer feared to be overlooked. Two or three leading stores and the two hotels were used as starting points. Kasson & Heermans' general store and Mr. Williston's Mansion House on the North Side and Dr. Day's drug store and Mr. Mann's Syracuse House got the benefit of gratuitous mention in fully one half the local business advertisements for at least the first five years of the publication of the Gazette.

Judged by space occupied in the ad. columns the Syracuse Book Store was the most important concern in the village. One needs to know that these ads. were inserted free, the editor being the book merchant. Both under Mr. Durnford's and afterwards under Mr. Redfield's management this was a really great business and the store was the headquarters for the better class of village loungers, the intellectual folks in their idleness. Its location, as I figure it out, was a little east from General Granger's. The remnant of it remained down to war times in the well remembered store of Mr. Edwards, the predecessor of T. W. Durston. But Mr. Durnford's was more than a book store. Along with the most astounding array of book titles, solemn and stately, he announced the latest liver pills, the great Dr. Pomeroy's razor strop, glassware, an occasional piece of real estate and always his ad. ended with a strong appeal for linen and cotton rags.

Kasson & Heermans have been especially celebrated by mention in Clark's memoirs. They were a bold, steady-going firm,

carrying an immense stock of every sort of goods and doing a big business in forwarding. Every new man apparently regarded this old firm with respectful envy.

Another member of the family, Archie Kasson, did a large business in hardware as early as 1823, and his account books, on file in these rooms, contain a vast amount of business history, much of it painful to unfold. His store was on the South Side and so well known that he seldom attempted to fix location.

Herman Walbridge was a good advertiser in 1824. He kept a general store about where the Court House stands. His brother Chester did an apparently vacillating business for a number of years and in 1828 announced the establishment of the Globe Factory on the margin of the Erie canal at the first lock east from the village. He boasted of his great waterpower and described an assortment of things made that rivaled the creation described in Genesis.

V. Cook & Co. did a dry goods business for at least two years between the Mansion House (Empire) and the Court House. Their adroit announcement of no trusting takes this form: "Those who wish to pay cash for goods are invited to call."

Davison & Blackman started a new store in that row, next to the hotel, in 1826. They sold dry goods and wet goods, and tavern keepers were particularly invited to call.

Somewhere in that block, Theodore Ashley in 1826 opened a cabinet shop and store and called for large amounts of basswood lumber. Probably on the north side of Church street, where the Farmers' Exchange is located, a Mr. Beebee opened a store in 1826 for "fancy and staple dry goods," and he made a specialty of "medicated oiled silk for infallible cure of gout, rheumatism, colds, etc., approved by all the most eminent physicians in the United States."

Mat. W. & G. Davis restricted their efforts to selling stoves and to writing fire insurance. They were probably on the site of the County Clerk's Office, and on the Court House corner or possibly on the Clinton Block site, was the store of George B. Morgan, a rival to Mr. Durnford in the book trade. Probably on

Church street, between Salina and Clinton, was Russell Hibbard's harness shop. He was willing to take in trade any quantity of farm produce or salt. Eleazar Hibbard, presumably his brother, had a dyeing establishment almost cross Salina street from the Mansion House, either on the site of this building or a little farther north. He announced his ability to color farmers' fleeces or merchants' damaged calicoes and make them saleable.

Somewhere on this side, and near the corners, was in 1826, the merchant tailor shop of R. Holmes, and in his ad. is found the first mention of ready-made garments. If I am correctly informed that shop was continued under various names until it became the original Yates clothing house.

R. & S. Stewart, somewhere west from the Mansion House, and probably beyond Clinton street, for a number of years conducted a large store for the sale of dry goods, crockery, groceries and wall paper. They advertised freely and frankly. A postscript was frequently added to their general announcement such as this: "The subscribers would barely mention to those indebted to them that their patience is nearly exhausted."

There was a barber shop in 1825 probably on the site of this building, (Syracuse Savings Bank), for early in 1826 we read the announcement that "Wm. Reynolds, Barber and Hair Dresser, continues business at his old stand \* \* \* where with the aid of keen razors, sharp scissors and a knowledge of the fashions as they vary, he has no doubt but that he will be able to render perfect satisfaction to all who apply for his professional services. He has on hand a general assortment of perfumes at wholesale and retail and the best Spanish segars that the village of Syracuse affords.

"He will attend to his profession on Sunday mornings until 10 o'clock, after which his shop will be closed. No hair cutting on Sundays. A liberal price paid for human hair."

In 1826 a new chair factory was announced by Holcomb & Sackett on the west side of Salina street in the Empire House Block, where large quantities of bass wood lumber would be paid for in cash.

Over on the South Side Dr. Jona Day's drug store was called in 1826 an "old establishment." It was just south from the Syracuse House, and everybody knew about it. The most wonderful medicines were sold there through a long term of years. Over it was Mr. Seaman's school, vouched for by its trustees, A. Kasson, J. W. Hanchett and G. Hooker. In the same ad. the same trustees announced Mr. Ostrander's school at the school house in Church street.

On the north side of Hanover Square N. & A. Tupper sold agricultural machinery. They expended several inches in a column describing a machine for cutting up hay and straw and expatiating upon the added nutritive value from cutting. Somewhere in that row Stillson & Grover had their painting and papering shop, and there also was the grain store of Mann & Millen, a business that was continued to the war time and that caused Hanover Square to become the regular grain market.

I can only mention the first advertised blacksmith shop, that of Van Heusen & Moshell on the corner of Warren and Genesee streets, and the first livery stable, Bacon & Woodruff, on Warren street.

The first announcement of seeds and nursery stock appears in 1828: "Garden seeds, flower seeds and English strawberry plants for sale at the Syracuse Village Gardens by John Boyd."

The first marble yard was announced in 1827. Isaac Stanton had moved from Salina village to the corner of Salina and Church streets, and would *cheerfully* take orders for all styles of grave stones.

A very early milliner was Miss Perkins, who had every sort of fashionable headwear and would receive in payment for hats many kinds of country produce.

A. Daumas & Co., profuse advertisers, had a drug store where the Bank of Syracuse is now. Among their innumerable specialties were "loadstone files for the perfect eradication of corns." Perhaps the most perfect representation of the miscellaneous store was that of Mann & Dickinson, who sold dry goods, groceries, crockery, glassware, nails, steel axes, hardware, codfish, women's

leather and prunell shoes, mackerel, salt, shingles and pine lumber, and were anxious to buy good house ashes; while Samuel Mead announced fall and winter dry goods, crockery and glassware, codfish, plug tobacco, spices and fanning mills.

I must not entirely omit that most rushing business of all, the lottery. Many of our stores were agencies for the great lottery schemes, but two merchants in particular looked after that line. S. C. Brewster, who kept the "Mint & Mine Office," filled column after column with his enticing offers of wealth for a trifle invested; but he was more than matched by Norton, who always employed rhyme in his glowing ads. Here are a couple of his stanzas:

"There are moments in life which may sadden us,  
Which a man of true merit despises;  
The goddess Dame Fortune will gladden us,  
And Norton sells lots of rich prizes."

And the closing one:

"Then no longer your sorrows be telling,  
Nor blubber and whine like a dunce.  
Go to Norton's, where prizes are selling,  
And end all your troubles at once."

Postmaster John Wilkinson's first list of advertised letters gives us these names: Wm. L. Burk, Joseph Doty and Wife, Jonathan Johnson, Samuel Milks, Henry Newton, John G. Sterns, Seth Spencer, Thomas Spencer.

The early auctioneer should claim a moment's attention. Jewelry, notions and even dry goods were regularly offered during a certain part of the day at auction in the various stores, a custom which lingered until after the Civil War and is still occasionally resorted to. The auctioneer was always an amusing man. Sometimes an accomplished singer. Most of his exhortation was given forth in sing song. An old friend once taught me a well remembered lingo from the village days:

"Here's your nice India rubber suspenders! Long enough for any man, short enough for any boy; give and stretch like a

lawyer's conscience; pull a man out of debt, jerk a man out of jail; jerk a lazy man's breeches right over his head: All for a quarter of a dollar!"

Many of the special ads. throw a side light on persons and events. For instance, it is shown that a theater was in existence in 1826, long before the West Genesee street theater was started. The notices of "Elopement" and warning to the public that the departing wife must not be trusted tell their pitiful tale, and generally, no doubt, a one side telling of it. But here is the most curious notice of all, entitled:

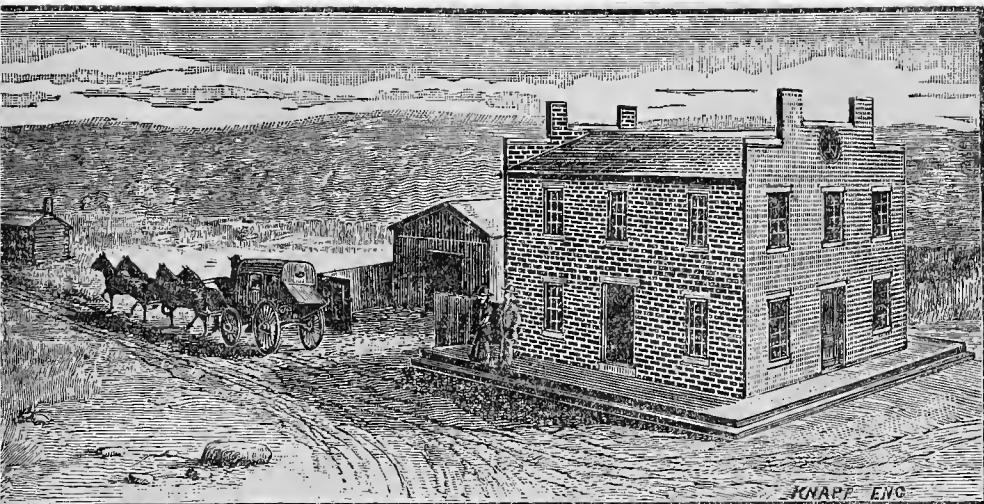
"HOLD UP!"

Those persons having demands against the subscriber are respectfully requested to hold up until the first of July, when they shall have their pay. I am now doing a good business after a long calm, and as my debts are neither numerous nor large, I am confident that I shall be able to cancel them unless disturbed before I get through my jobs. If pressed now I shall be obliged to return to the "long farm."

THOMAS P. PIPER.

APRIL 10, 1827.

Whether or not this candid appeal of poor Peter Piper touched his heartless creditors and averted collapse we know not, but the docket of Justice Kasson shows a good many judgments entered against him, and we have grave fears that he is still sojourning on the "long farm," with many another luckless business man of his day.



THE ORIGINAL SYRACUSE HOUSE IN 1820.

## OLD SYRACUSE HOUSE.

"Rufus Stanton had continued on the land east of Salina street, and in 1815 had a field of twenty acres of grain, at the northeast corner of which was erected the Syracuse House. The tract was afterwards sowed with grass seed, enclosed with a rail fence, and in 1820 was bought by Luther Buell (brother of the grandfather of H. B. Buell, of McCarthy's wholesale house) and Shubael Safford, (grandfather of John D. Safford of Syracuse), who began the erection of a brick hotel fifty feet square, two stories high with basement. \* \* \* The building was finished by Henry Eckford in 1822, after his purchase of the tract. It was called the Syracuse Hotel, but in 1827, after the accession of the Syracuse Company, was rebuilt in an enlarged and improved style, and remained the Syracuse House."—*Onondaga Centennial*, p. 411.

## THE CLERGY OF THE VILLAGE.

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(By Rev. George B. Spalding, D. D.)

It is a most significant fact that the religious enterprise kept step with the material at the very beginning of our village life. The church headed the onward movement with a spirit as courageous and hopeful as that which filled its business, and her leaders were as strong in intellect and as large in wisdom as the very ablest in any other sphere of professional and public life. The moulding hand of the early ministers of the half century of this village was most powerful upon those institutions and influences and individuals, the most essential, the most beneficent, the most lasting in any community. In the very brief space allotted me I can mention but a very few, those who by length of service and pre-eminent character impressed themselves deepest and most ineffacably upon the Syracuse of the past and of the future.

In this noble list I name first, Rev. John Watson Adams, D. D. His ministry over the First Presbyterian Church covered almost the entire period of the existence of the village of Syracuse. He was pastor here soon after the village was born and pastor still when the city came to life. He began his ministry here, and he ended his only ministry here, rounding it out to a quarter of a century with a character, an example, a work of imperishable strength and beauty. He was a man of great dignity and of equal modesty, who first won men's respect and then their love; a preacher of unusual intellectual clearness and force, strong in logic, persuasive in appeal and a rich and yet chastened imagination, and a command of words felicitous and virile. With all his love of books and relish for solitary meditation, he was intensely practical, and mingled freely in the every day affairs of the town life, impressing every one and everything with his large, pure, upright views of what the church and the home, and the schools and the whole civic life might become. None worthier, none grander has lived among us.

The Baptist Church was first in our village. It really antedated its existence.

As early as 1819 students at the Theological Seminary at

Hamilton preached here in the little school house in Church street where so many of our churches drew their first breath. Among these youthful preachers was Jonathan Wade, who before the church was organized consecrated himself as a foreign missionary, and sailed away to do his splendid work in Burma.

Perhaps the most prominent among the early Baptist ministers in our village was Rev. N. J. Gilbert, who came here from North Norwich, Chenango County, in the spring of 1823. He was a man, I would judge, of unfeigned faith, ardent zeal, countless labors. It was by his tireless efforts that the first Baptist Church was built. It was upon the site now occupied by the Universalist Church. I love to think that the Episcopalians and Presbyterians largely joined in building this Baptist Church, and largely worshipped there under Pastor Gilbert, and each occupying the sacred room for each one's services when unused by another. When these early christians of various church names had hoisted with united hands the beams of the building, we are told that the Baptist minister prayed with an unwonted earnestness that God, the Father of them all, would bless them altogether in every labor of love. May the fragrance of that early prayer linger with its unspent sweetness in all our churches.

In the great scourge of cholera which swept this village in 1832, this good man was its third victim. He was seized while attending the funeral of the second, when the physician came to him, the dying man said: "Doctor, see a man who has nothing to do but die." And so he went home.

The first resident missionary of the Episcopal Church in the village was Rev. William Barlow. He came in 1828. Under his ministry which was of two years the church edifice erected on the present site of the Granger Block was finished. The church was consecrated by Bishop Hobart, and for the first time the Holy Communion was administered according to the ritual of the church. The clergyman of longest service in the Episcopal Church during this village life was the Rev. Henry Gregory, D. D., for nearly eight years Rector of St. Paul's Church and for some years after Rector of St. James. His name has been entered

into the history of the Episcopal Church here as the "Father of the Church in Syracuse," "a presbyter for twenty and five years, fulfilling the pattern of all that 'is pure, peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.'"

The Roman Catholics were very few in number in our village, and yet as early as 1842 they bought the wooden church building of the St. Paul's Episcopal Society and removed it to the corner of Madison and Montgomery streets. No longer a church but used for church purposes the old building is in symmetry and proportions among the most beautiful of our public structures. Its first pastor was Rev. Michael Haes, who labored with great fidelity for seventeen years, being succeeded by Rev. James A. O'Hara, whose pastorate of thirty years was so full of tender solicitude for his own great flock, and of exceeding love to all men that he was called by all, Protestants and Catholics, with an unusual esteem "*Father O'Hara.*"

It was in 1845 that Rev. Samuel Joseph May began his ministry to the Unitarian Church. But while this noble man served his own congregation with every grace of a good pastor, he served the people at large and the whole kingdom of humanity with a ministry of righteousness and love which no generation can forget.

His personality must have been his mightiest power. His sense of justice was supreme. His love and hope were as broad as mankind. He was a woman in gentleness. He was a hero in courage. He was a saint in purity. His name is immortal among us. Let his goodness also be.

And so they stand before us to-night representatives of different denominations, and varying forms of belief and worship, but all saying forth the one Christly love, and all calling to us as with trumpet tones out of their devotion and self sacrifice to humanity for a like service.



### OLD ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

"IN 1825 THE SYRACUSE COMPANY DONATED TO THE SOCIETY THE TRIANGULAR LOT ON WHICH STANDS THE GRANGER BLOCK, (S., A. & K. BUILDING,) AND IN 1828 A WOODEN EDIFICE WAS FINISHED FACING THE EAST, THE REAR STANDING CLOSE TO WARREN STREET. \* \* \* ON THE 12TH OF JULY, 1841, THE CORNER STONE OF A STONE EDIFICE WAS LAID ON A NEW LOT ON WARREN STREET, ON THE SITE OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT BUILDING. \* \* \* IN 1844 THE OLD WOODEN CHURCH WAS SOLD AND REMOVED TO THE CORNER OF MADISON AND MONTGOMERY STREETS, WHERE IT NOW STANDS UNOCCUPIED."

[*Onondaga's Centennial*, p. 527.]



## THE EXPLOSION OF 1841.

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(By Nelson Gilbert.)

Many notable events, now historic, occurred during the time when Syracuse was a village. Scenes of rejoicing and of mourning. Among the latter, the dread Asiatic cholera, which in 1832—and for some years after, cut down humanity as grass before the scythe. Many of the best known citizens of our village fell before it. But in dreadful horror and instant destruction of life, "The Powder Explosion" on the evening of August 20th, 1841, surpassed anything before or since.

As the alarm of fire rang out between eight and nine, on that fated evening, men rushed out to join the crowd as the three hand engines went hurrying along the street, drawn by their ambitious companies. "And with more demonstration than do our effective steamers of to-day," to their places on towing path of the Oswego canal.

The fire was in a carpenter shop, occupied by Charles Goings, a plain low building, some thirty feet north of the Old Circus Building, then standing on ground fronting West Willow street, with side to the Oswego canal, and cornering the bridge. The site is now occupied by Mr. Bell as a yard attached to his barn.

A short time previous to this Messrs. Malcom and Hudson, hardware merchants, had obtained permission for temporary storage of kegs of powder, which were placed upon an overhead floor of the shop. Outside and around the building were piles of lumber, which on this occasion were largely occupied by onlookers.

Soon after breaking out of the fire, word was passed through the crowd, that "Powder was there." This was denied by others, and some, who had started to retire, were reassured, and turned back to their death.

In front of the fire, was noise and earnest emulation on part of the firemen, in their legitimate work. When,—the awful "Taps" was sounded, and the "Lights put out of twenty-five lives."

All was done in an instant of time. There were two distinct reports—though one in effect.

The instantaneous transition from light to darkness; for the powder put out the fire,—and the turmoil going on,—to deathlike stillness that followed, can scarce be appreciated by those not there. The first audible sound was from the man perched upon a displaced stick of timber on inside the Circus Building ;—the north end of which had been blown in ;—as he exclaimed, “Where am I !” And repeating the interrogation. For the moment, he knew not his status, whether it was earth, or eternity.

Cries of the wounded for help, and others for light, now filled the air. The sickening duty of gathering the dead ; some in the canal with headless bodies, and some across, whither the explosion had carried them. The agonizing cries of relatives and friends, who with lanterns sought the dead and wounded, were experiences without a parallel, except that on a battlefield at night.

Desolation and death now filled many a home. The following Sabbath was one great funeral day. Most of the churches held services for their dead, and in general sympathy, appropriate to the occasion, beside the many at private homes.

In this great calamity, there was mingled mercy. Had the powder been upon the ground floor, it is probable hundreds would have been swept away ; beside, the exceeding hot weather preceding ; cooled, thus favoring to recovery the wounded. Of these, three survive.

Mr. Samuel Hurst still keeps his feet under the weight of 87 years. His experiences on that occasion are interestingly told in the Herald columns of August 26th. As are also those of Paul Shaw, now in his 90th year. The powder marks then received on his face have been in evidence during the years since.

The third, myself, stood at the north end of the Circus Building with others, facing the fire some thirty feet distant. The time from standing there until lying upon the ground with an arm nearly broken, and badly bruised head, was too short for thought, but the days of thanksgiving to Almighty God for his saving

hand have been many. Verily, "There was but a step between us and death."

The results of this calamity weighed heavily upon Mr. Malcolm, senior partner of the hardware firm. He sought to do all in his power in assisting the injured and afflicted ones, but the blow was too heavy for his years, and his head was,—not long after, "brought down with sorrow to the grave."

Standing upon the memorable site to-day, I find it difficult to realize the dreadful scene of fifty-nine years ago, but knowing this: That soon the sad fact and those yet surviving, will scarce exist even in the memory of any.

While in possession of the floor there is a strong inclination to save for both the present and future another day which brought both sorrow and death to some.

It is quite possible there may not be another person present who remembers or even has knowledge of the event.

The writer well remembers standing a little west of the old Mansion House early one Fourth of July morning as John Courtney, at that time a well known townsman, with two assistants bringing over the Clinton street bridge the brass six-pounder cannon for firing the sunrise salute. Near as memory serves this was about 1836. The gun was located near the towpath in front of the Empire House wing and on ground of the small new park.

This was in the days of old time Fourth of July celebrations. An imposing parade, oration, reading the Declaration of Independence, public dinner, etc.

On this occasion the procession was on its route to the Methodist Episcopal Church, where the services were to be held, and with discharges from the cannon as accompaniment.

During this and while loading the gun, Mr. Courtney failed to properly thumb the piece, premature discharge followed. One of the gunners received so much of the load in chest, face and eyes, that after some two days of excruciating agony he died, leaving his family destitute. The other escaped with loss of

an arm. With remaining arm, he for many years carried a basket of apples, etc., about the streets as merchandise.

In connection with the brass gun it is in line to speak of the Old Artillery Company. The first military organization here. It flourished along the '30s. General E. W. Leavenworth was at one time commandant. The roster of the company was for years in my possession, but turned the same over to Mr. Leavenworth a year or more prior to his death.

The company, in its neat uniform, with John Cook, its fifer at the head and the bright six-pounder drawn in its ranks made quite an imposing appearance, both for those of mature years, and especially the younger who followed, but with less care as to the "order of their going."

## REMINISCENCES BY DELIA COLVIN HATCH.

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It is well for you that I can only comply by pen; were I where I would love dearly to be to-night—one among you—the well informed Syracuse historians would have a small chance were I first upon the platform; “Out of the fulness of the heart the mouth would speak,” and memory would take me back to my first impressions of Syracuse when neither village or myself had reached our teens, tracing through many years of great changes, leading on to my identity with this old city, which has been to me a source of such interest, making a grand closing of a life, which has from childhood, been loyal to all that worked for the good of my Syracuse home.

If I grow prosy or too diffuse and tiresome, lay the document aside; I will be the first to say, “On with the dance, let joy be unconfined.”

My first visit in 1835 was short; in 1836 it became my home for many happy years, with my uncle, Dr. D. T. Colvin. His house, just finished, was on the lot where St. James Church now stands, on James street, then called Foot street. On a rise of ground just opposite, was a square frame house built by Major Burnet; he was then living just west of the creek on West Genesee street. The little hill has been mostly leveled and the house let down; many a summer eve have I sat upon the piazza of our home and enjoyed the bugle played upon the packet boats as they passed through the village; far more agreeable than steam whistle and shriek of the engine of the railroad now crossing the street.

On the corner of Foot and Townsend streets was the home of J. G. Forbes (now of Allen Butler); on the west corner, that of P. D. Mickles; on the corner of James and Catherine, the home of B. F. Colvin; just opposite, a small house and two small one-story houses on Foot street, were all the buildings at that time from Lock street, to the top of the hill; one on the farm of J. H. Colvin, west of the Holcomb place, then the farm of B. F. Colvin. All the land from Lock street, taking which is now Rosehill Cemetery, was owned by my uncle, Jasper H. Colvin, over the hill to the east, and joining B. F. Colvin’s farm of 200 acres (on both

sides of the street). In Danforth a Dr. D. T. Colvin had a farm, so it is true, the Colvins had a foothold beside that which all early settlers had, of mud and mire on the streets.

The State Fair of 1849, was on the land of J. H. Colvin back of the grove which is now Highland street.

My first school was on Church street, to my cousin Wealthy Ann Lathrop, who drilled us well in syntax, in accent, spelling and definition, and Oh! the real estate I have carried on rainy days from Robbers Row next to the Syracuse Academy (from the corner of Mulberry and Fayette streets), to the school (now Orphan Asylum), then a brick house owned and occupied by Mr. Tousley (his wife, a daughter of Asa Danforth); on the corner of Fayette and Grape, the home of Charles Leonard, and two small red houses near Orange street.

The principal of the school was Oren Root, father of Elihu, who has his Root firmly imbedded in the hearts of his countrymen—our present efficient Secretary of War; his aunt, Miss Charlotte Butrick (mother of Mrs. Charles L. Stone), was assistant in the female department; not as old as some of her pupils, and but little beyond the years of any of us, but Oh! how we did love and cling to her—our wise counsellor, teacher, companion and friend.

Then to the Syracuse Seminary; Mr. Thomas Williams and Miss Parrott (afterward Mrs. Williams) were principals (while she was Miss Parrott); in writing to my sister I put in some lines written backward, and could only be read before a looking-glass; “The world has come to such a pass, that fools can’t read without a glass.” She replied: “For my part I think there be more fools, when Parrott come to teaching school.”

The school was opened on Salina street, about the center of the block between Water and Washington streets, later the Old Line House, where is now the Mowry. From one of the recitation rooms we could look upon the old Mill Pond and see sunshine stars sparkling upon the water. Among the pupils was Lora C. Smith; her daily report from her home was of the bright sayings and happy ways of her nephew, Carroll E., who has

known Syracuse in all her changes, and held many positions to give him more than a local habitation and a name. Time is leaving its imprints upon him; the active playful boy must grow old, and he will be in the coming years to the future representatives of progressive Syracuse, known as "The venerable sire before us;" may they give to him the thanks and homage due to his devotion to home interests, and to this old Society. Don't shrink from the forecast my friend and honored President; I am there before you, and know age has its well earned joys and rest.

No one can recall early Syracuse without in mind seeing the Syracuse House, corner Salina and Genesee; J. I. Bradley's blacksmith shop on Genesee and Warren, and to the first St. Paul's Church on the triangle opposite, where, in after years, myself and many a well loved one took upon themselves their baptismal vow in Confirmation, by Bishop DeLancey.

The first party I attended was at the home of L. H. Redfield, corner of Genesee and Montgomery streets, not a person or face known to me then, who have since become so closely identified with the strong friendship formed, but have proved true through all the after years.

My first little gathering at the home of my uncle, where was always the open door and welcome for old and young, had among the first to come, Mary and Margaret Redfield, and Lucy B. Putnam. As I opened the door Mary says in an *anxious and childish way*, "*Delia has the party begun?*" In the evening G. J. Gardner and G. O. Bridges came.

In referring to the old home it may not be amiss to say, it was the best house in the city, where was found the open fireplace and logwood fire; I am not the only one left who can recall its warmth and glow, and the genial welcome given with it.

An oyster supper at the home of Mortimer Jerome, in Camillus, which was the first (but far from the last) of many a gathering enjoyed by that double quartette; Elizabeth Filkins, Sophia Edwards, Mary Johnson and myself; Mortimer Jerome, Holly Hovey, G. O. Bridges and Edward Elliot; all have passed the great divide before me. The latter I last met in these rooms at a

presentation of my work ; of course our theme was of older times, as we had not met in years ; the weeks were few ere he was called.

With many others we had sleighrides in winter to Brewerton and other points, carriage rides in summer, boating on lakes and rivers, dancing in the evening ; the fiddle played by Harvey Bennett, sometimes a band 'til long after the midnight hour. No wonder to me that the jingle of those bells over the plankroad have to memory a happy sound of those homeward rides, for, on one occasion, someone did Hatch a scheme which culminated in my renouncing forever the right to be called Miss Colvin.

Mr. Held made an earnest but unsuccessful effort to bring me to the high standard in music, which many of his pupils had attained ; I am happy to say, notwithstanding my failure to be what he tried to have me, has not diminished his cordial greetings and his goodwill has been shown by his unasked for, but highly prized pen sketch which has a place in the valuable collection in your possession. As to my music ; I did conquer many a piece so I kept good time, and it has served to give enjoyment to many a gathering as they joined hands all around, and with happy hearts and lively steps they moved, to "Campbell's are Coming;" "Irish Washerwoman;" "Come Haste to the Wedding," etc., in the quadrille and contra dances of those days ere the two-step had monopolized the floor. A great addition was made to piano, when my brother-in-law, Austin E. Munger's fine execution on the flute was heard, when he was accompanied by Charles Leonard's daughter (Mrs. Ezra Howlett) ; we had strains of melody that were heavenly to the guests of our large and many family gatherings.

Those were days before clubs, receptions and teas for afternoons came in vogue ; then when we went visiting the ladies went in the afternoon and the gentlemen came to tea, and spent the evening. In those days of evening parties, husbands and wives went and enjoyed the evening, and then went home together ; I don't want to criticise the present progressive ways, but, in some respects, I somewhat agree with "*The former days were best.*"

My entrance into society was at the home of Harry Raynor, on Water street, the occasion of the marriage of his sister Julia, to Alfred H. Hovey. My dress, a lovely pink silk, low corsage and short sleeves; my brown hair curled, my cheeks red with the glow of youth—a different face from the one now known to you—but my heart is as young and I could take my part in gay life with more zest, than did the timid blushing girl of that evening.

Julia Raynor was one of the loveliest of Syracuse brides for which the village had more than a local fame, and also for the *young matrons* of that date; I trust I may not be considered as invading the privacy of anyone, when I mention those whom I remember as here when I came, and who are now with you; Mrs. William Jackson, nee Emma Jerome; Mrs. Peter Outwater (Lucia Phillips), and Mrs. T. B. Fitch (Ursula Elliot.)

It was a sad day in our city in April, 1850, when three residents were followed by friends, to be laid in Rosehill Cemetery; Dr. J. W. Adams from Park Church in the morning; Mrs. Hovey from her residence on West Onondaga street in the afternoon, and Mrs. R. A. Yoe, near the time of the setting sun.

My identity with this society was in 1894; my long absence in a Western home had given me no knowledge of this Association. As old families were to be represented at that time, I was invited by my friend Mary E. Bagg, to take part in the quilting scene, conceived and drawn up by herself; all participants to have been residents of the county before 1820, the date of the original party.

My grandparents with their nine children came here as early as 1802, and all remained except my father, Zina H., who made his home in Niagara County and married into a well known pioneer family of the frontier.

The history of the Sprague family of twenty-one children, who lived to marry, proved a success, and was a help in bringing that scene into favor; the quantity of family, is, without doubt, of the quality you can judge by their descendants; my grandmother and the great grandmother of Carroll Earle Smith were the sisters, Mary (Mrs. Benjamin Colvin) and Experience (Mrs.

Jonas Earle, Sr.) ; of the David Sprague family of whom were enumerated at the time of his death in 1820—four hundred and twenty descendants.

Those centennial days were happy days oft recalled ; they were the beginning with me of an interest which has grown to an intense desire to have this organization one which shall be perpetual ; one, their former president (*blessed be his memory and his gift*) has left a substantial memorial, which, I trust, may be added to by others now among us, and who shall join him in the future.

Happy memories of the blessed past among the friends of my youth and of later life, and of this Society ; soon for me time shall be no longer, but there will come a reunion with those gone, and with those to whom I now speak, filled with a love—a love that has no bounds but eternity.

## REMINISCENCES BY MARGARET TREDWELL SMITH.

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This occasion is one of exceeding interest to both my husband and myself. The vista of retrospection is far reaching. In my husband's life of sixty-one years in the valley and on the hills of Onondaga, his recollections embrace several years of village life, which was entered into at a time, when the railroad era for Central New York, and notably, Syracuse, was opening.

Destiny and the "Goddess Fortuna," were abiding and overruling in the little village which in 1839 numbered 6,000 inhabitants.

In the opening week of the new year 1825, I was, as it were, to the manor born—a child of Onondaga, born at the Hollow, in the natal year of the village of Syracuse—of its organization.

Among the earliest recollections of my childhood was the removal made by my father, with his family, from Onondaga Hollow to Syracuse, which took place in 1829, at which time my mother in the family chaise, driving "Old Jack," brought from the deserted home the last of the Lares and Penates—which treasures were myself and the household cat.

Childish recollection of the prevailing Jacksonian fervor in 1829-30, is emphasized by an incident which occurred at old St. Paul's Church, at that time located upon the "Granger Block" triangle. The organ and the choir in the curtained gallery began the chant, the congregation arose and turned to face the gallery, as was the custom. My younger sister Jane, so small that she stood upon the cushioned seat of the pew, turned towards the sound also and joined in singing, with "Hurrah for Jackson!" The shallow waters bordering Onondaga Lake were visited by my mother and her four little girls, and once "Old Jack" came near being swallowed by quicksand. Water worn shells were picked up and from the salt mashes samphire was gathered—it was of repute in household menage, as rushes, also.

Is there an annalist living who can tell us of the early times, when the Congers, Major and Mrs. Burnet, General and Mrs. Granger, etc., were the leading families socially, as later? When 12 years of age I was present at Mrs. Granger's when a crowded

company were entertained. I remember the massive mahogany sideboard spread with wine glasses filled with Maderia, into each of which had been dropped two butternut meats. I remember the wedding party given for Dean Richmond and bride, Miss Elizabeth Mead, sister of Mrs. General Hopping—by Lewis H. and Mrs. Redfield in the house located on the present Yates Hotel site. The illumination was obtained by sperm candles—white, green and red coloring.

I think that I must have been as a child “handy,” for I recollect assisting Miss Mary Elizabeth Putnam, who was the fiancee of Thomas T. Davis—to dress, when she was bridesmaid for Ursula Elliott (Mrs. T. B. Fitch.) Miss Bradbury made her entree into Syracuse social life at the wedding of Miss Eliza Lawrence (Mrs. Jones), and in line with this pleasant experience of trust, in the preparation made by Miss Bradbury, was a similar one later, when Mrs. Emma Willard, guest of my mother, donned fine satin and lace in preparation for the address to be delivered by her to the delegates attending the notable educational convention held here.

The reminiscent move tempts to further trespassing, beyond the limits set to a letter. I linger for a moment to mention the dinner given by Thomas T. and Mrs. Davis to Mr. Peabody at which Captain Putnam was an honored guest—a townsman of Mr. Peabody’s town. Comrades and friends have passed to the “Higher Life.” Their names the Onondaga County Historical Association fittingly commemorates, in commemorating the organization of the village of Syracuse and kindred matters.

## REMINISCENCES OF THE LATE CHARLES A. WHEATON.

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(By Charlotte Birdseye Miller.)

This early resident of Syracuse was born in Dutchess County, N. Y., in 1811, the son of Augustus Wheaton and came at a very early age with his parents to Pompey. In his early manhood he was clerk for Jacob Ten Eyck of Cazenovia, and later for his brother-in-law, Moses Seymour Marsh at Pompey. Mr. Marsh about this time, probably 1830, built the Stone Store, still standing at Pompey, on the site previously occupied by Henry Seymour, the father of Horatio Seymour. In June, 1834, he was married to Ellen D. Birdseye, eldest daughter of the late Hon. Victory Birdseye, a pioneer of Pompey. In October, 1835, he removed to Syracuse, to become a partner with the late William Jackson in the hardware business in a store located where now stands the Wieting Block. While in this business one of his employees was Peter Burns, later a prominent and prosperous citizen.

Mr. Wheaton's first housekeeping in Syracuse was in what was called the Day House on the southeast corner of Railroad and Clinton streets. A little later he was on Fayette street, just west of the present site of the Milk Association. The next remove was to West Water street, next to the old recruiting station, and from there he removed to South Salina street to the residence built by himself and later occupied by Hon. Joseph J. Glass.

It was while living in this residence that he was suspected of harboring a runaway slave and an officer came and searched the house. No runaway slave was found and Mrs. Wheaton said later that there was one place where a person might have been concealed, but that place was overlooked in the search.

The property on South Salina street was later exchanged for that of Aaron Burt, on Asylum Hill, now known as the Jacob Crouse residence. After some years residence on the Hill, Mr. Wheaton removed to the place on the south side of the Fayette Park, afterwards owned by James Ellis, later by his daughter, Mrs. Beach, on the site of the present residence of Dr. Elsner.

Mr. Wheaton in the early "fifties" built the Wheaton Block

on the corner of South Salina and West Water streets, at that time the handsomest and most imposing structure in the city. Besides stores and offices it contained a hall for public meetings of a capacity of 2,000 sittings. This building was afterward sold to Dr. Wieting for \$112,000, a transaction at that time the largest on record in the county. It was burned down in January, 1856, and replaced by the Wieting Block.

In 1861 Mr. Wheaton moved to Northfield, Minn., and later became the editor of the Northfield Journal, which he edited until his death in 1880. He was a man of strict integrity, of careful business habits and of deep and earnest convictions and moral courage to live up to them. He was a prominent and efficient member of the old Congregational Church (which stood on East Genesee street on the Convention Hall site) and was for many years the leader of its choir. Old residents will well remember his fine tenor. Associated with him in this choir were William E. Abbott, Waldo Hanchett and Mrs. Hanchett. Later, and while still a member of this church, Mr. Wheaton became interested in the writings of Swedenborg and sometimes advocated his views in the prayer meetings, to the distress of some of the more orthodox. On one occasion a brother in his zeal for the true faith prayed that the Lord would remove Brother Wheaton from earth, before he should corrupt and unsettle the belief of his fellow church members. An aged woman, who had had an experience of Mr. Wheaton's liberality, in a time of financial distress, entered just in time to hear the petition and cried out: "Not so, Lord, not so, Lord." Apparently her petition was the one answered, for Mr. Wheaton lived many years thereafter.

He was a member of the Board of Education in '51 and '52 and it is believed this was the only city office he ever held. He was a prominent Anti-Slavery man and endured some persecution from the defenders of the "peculiar institution." He was not one of the rescuers of "Jerry," but was engaged with Rev. S. J. May and Charles B. Sedgwick at that hour in planning for Jerry's legal defence and rescue from his captors.

Desperate efforts were made by those charged with the en-

forcement of the "Fugitive Slave Law" to prove him implicated in the forcible rescue of Jerry, but in vain.

Mrs. Ellen Birdseye Wheaton received her early education in Pompey Academy and acquired a finish with musical instruction at a private school in Albany. Hers was the first piano brought to Pompey and when first set up in the parlor of the Birdseye homestead attracted a crowd of villagers to the open windows and doors to hear the young lady perform. She was a sweet singer and often joined her husband's tenor in public.

She died in 1858 leaving eleven children surviving her, viz.: Cornelia, wife of Frederick Ayer of Lowell Mass.; Edward of Oakland, Cal.; Ellen L., wife of Dr. A. R. Morgan, now of Waterbury, Conn.; Emma C., wife of N. P. Langford of St. Paul, Minnesota; Clara, second wife of same; Lucia, wife of T. T. Smith of St. Paul; Mary H., wife of Hon. Francis Kittredge of Boston, Mass.; Henry of California; Florence of Boston; Dr. C. A. Wheaton of St. Paul, and Mabel F., wife of Edwin Barney of New Bedford, Mass. Of these eleven seven still survive and occupy prominent positions in business and society.

Mr. Wheaton was married a second time in Minnesota to Mrs. Sarah Waggoner, by whom he had five children, and of these three are now living.

## REMINISCENCES BY M. W. HANCHETT.

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I greatly regret that I am unable to accept your kind invitation to be present on the occasion of the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the organization of the village of Syracuse.

This period of time is covered by the years of my own life—nearly all of which have been spent within the territory included in the old village lines.

My father—Dr. John W. Hanchett—came, with his family to the village in 1826. I was then but four years old and the village born in 1825 was but one year old and had but just begun to walk alone. As my memory began to take in things about me at that early date I have in store much of the steps of growth and development of Syracuse from its beginning. I feel therefore deeply interested in the things that may be brought out on the occasion of this anniversary gathering. I probably could not add much, if anything, of general interest to that already known, or will be brought forth in papers or by the speakers announced.

My memory as a boy, takes in many things of the village in the thirties that would not be as well laid up by persons of larger growth.

The first night of my father's family in the village I believe was spent by invitation at the house of General Amos P. Granger—a building occupied by him in part as a store, standing on the site of the Syracuse Savings Bank. Our family home was for some years in the "Marvin Block," a three-story brick building, designed for stores and dwellings, standing partly on the site of the Onondaga County Court House. This building at the time of its erection was perhaps the largest in the county—its location, fronting Clinton Square and the Erie canal, made it very prominent and was the very center of business for the time. The north side of the square was by day the market place for products of the country—here was the place for the sale of hay, grain, wood—body maple and hickory at two dollars, or less, per cord, and all things farmers had to offer. The square was also used by energetic youths as the common play ground where ball games were indulged in without let or hindrance. "Throw-up and catch,"

skyward strikes and "two-old-cat" were most common. Neither university backing—prospective championships—nor widely spread press laudations, even if graced with choicest slang—seemed needful in those early days to stimulate interest in the games, nor necessary for best results from healthy exercise.

The canal bridges at either end of the square furnished excellent "toboggan slides," which were freely used in the winter by all dimentions of boys and sleds,—greatly to the discomfort of pedestrians who might have occasion to travel up or down the slopes.

In the evenings on the square lighted from the shop windows, the boys delighted to play "tag," "hide and seek," "pom-pom-pull-away," and the like until Sexton Gould rang the bell of the Presbyterian Church for nine o'clock, when the boys—brought up by good old fashioned mothers—would quit their games and were off for their homes, and early to bed! It is quite different in these later days!

The old school house on Church street, where the first election of village trustees was held, and was used as the first "Council Chamber" of Syracuse—I distinctly remember, and I have also clearly in mind the personal appearance of several of the village officials of the time. Here was the first school in Syracuse,—quite early, as the village grew, came in addition private and select schools. Of the early teachers I remember Hiram Deming, W. K. Blair, Miss Wealthy Ann Lathrop, Miss Denslow, Miss Chapman, Mr. E. F. Wallace, George F. Comstock, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Salisbury, Prof. Mayo and Orrin Root. Mr. Root, at the Syracuse Academy in 1839, was my last school teacher in Syracuse.

Mrs. Nelson Gilbert is now the only person known to be living, who was a teacher in the first old school house—her name was then Orvilla Parker.

This school house was the place for the consideration, and was the starting point for many things affecting the best interests of the early village. Nearly all of our prominent churches had their early beginning in this old building. Of the practical builders of

the village I well remember, as among the first, David and Amos Stafford, Henry Gifford, Luther Gifford, Daniel Elliott, Bradley Cary and Elijah T. Hayden—of these, the last is still living. All building materials needful were at hand. Onondaga lime stone, quarried near by, lumber to be obtained or sawed to order at the mill of “Uncle” Fred Horner, between “the flume” and Onondaga creek, near the old “Red Mill,” which stood in West Genesee street, and brick from the yard of Zopher Adams on the west bank of Onondaga creek, next the old “Cinder road,”—now West Onondaga street.

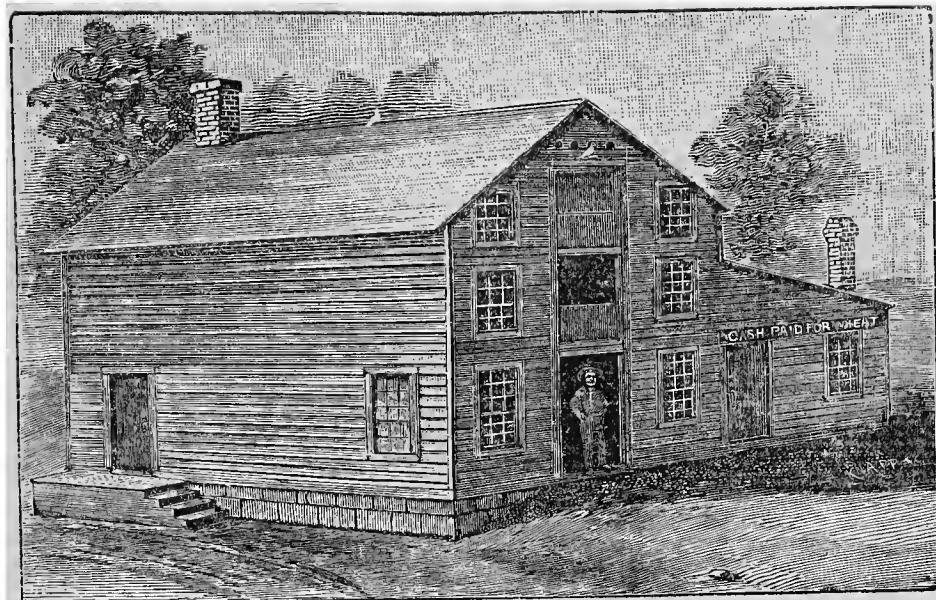
The greater number of the village buildings erected in the thirties, or before, have now disappeared. I have endeavored by memory sketches to preserve, for our aftercomers, the appearance of some of the more prominent of the early village structures.

Of the principal professional and business men of this early day I have a clear remembrance—for in the days of the small village everybody knew everybody—and it would seem then, less from motives for personal advantage than appears the rule now-a-days in towns of larger growth.

The cholera scourge, which visited our country in 1832-3, appeared with much severity in our village. Among the many inhabitants who were suddenly taken away were some of the more prominent citizens. A deep gloom was cast over the community. The lines of travel, usually full, were much reduced in patronage—and people of the country kept at a distance from the place, so was the business of the village greatly depressed.

This calamity was followed by the great fire of 1834. I saw the first bursting forth of the flames that destroyed the buildings between Salina and Warren streets on both banks of the Erie canal. These were business buildings occupying the very heart of the village, and the loss was very disastrous to the place, and greatly discouraging to the mercantile interests, but reaction soon came, the buildings were early replaced by more substantial structures—some of which are still standing—and the village took on a new life.

A “thousand and one” things of the early days might be spoken of as they come to mind, but my string should not run on. I will stop now before I venture more—only adding my best wishes for the Onondaga Historical Association and trusting this occasion may tend to awaken an increased interest and open the way for its fuller prosperity and greater usefulness.



THE OLD RED MILL.

THE OLD RED MILL.

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"In 1805 Mr. Walton built the first mills in Syracuse, thus improving the disputed mill site. He constructed a dam of logs across the creek about where it is crossed by West Genesee street, and the roadway passed along the top of the dam. The mill stood on the east bank of the stream, partly on the High School site (former High School) and partly in what is now the street. It was two stories high with an attic, contained two runs of stones, and was painted red, giving it the well known title of 'the red mill.' The first dam stood only about a year when a spring freshet carried the dam away. The second was built about where West Water street crosses the creek, and a wooden bridge was erected over the creek at Genesee street. The second dam was replaced in 1824 by one built of stone. These dams created a large mill pond, the size and situation of which are shown on maps of 1819 and 1834."—*Onondaga Centennial*, p. 401.

## REMINISCENCES BY DR. A. R. MORGAN.

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My father moved to the village of Syracuse in 1836, and kept a tavern at the corner of Church and Salina streets, this business he sold to Smith (father of Lewis, Schuyler and Andrew J. Smith), who in turn disposed of it to William A. Robinson, who established the Onondaga Temperance House.

My father afterwards engaged in the bakery business in "Robbers Row" and went to smash in the financial crash of 1837, from which he never recovered—he was succeeded by I. A. and Paschal Thurber, long favorably known as successful business men.

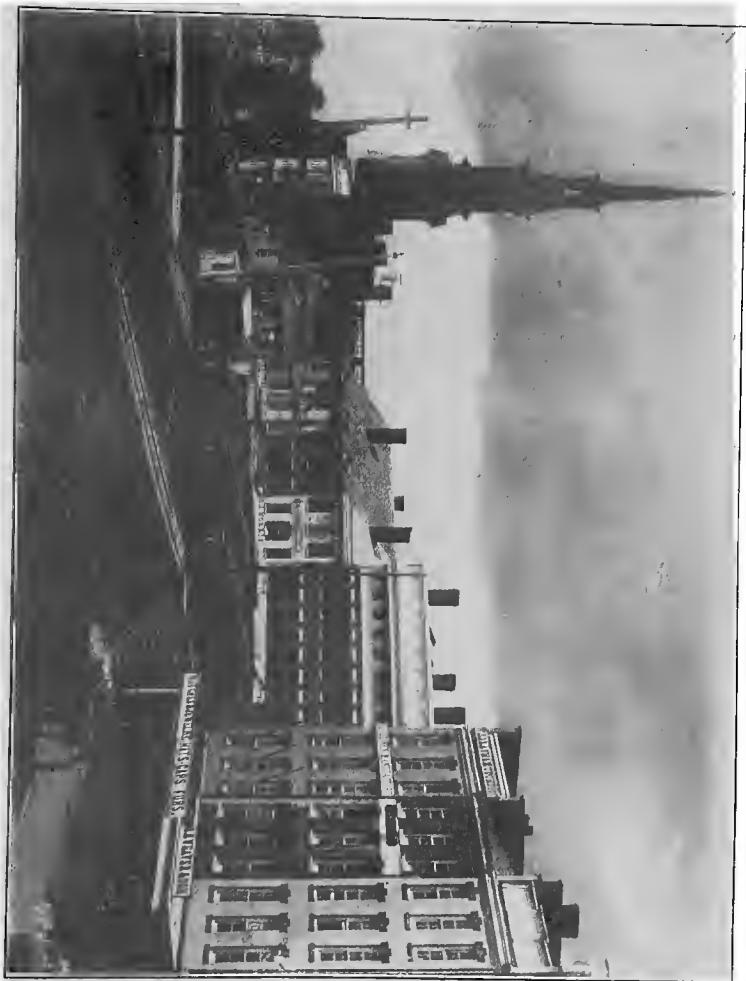
Syracuse then contained a population of probably 5,000 people, every one being fully persuaded that the salt industry, and the transportation facilities—passenger and frieght—afforded by the unsalted C's ("Clinton's ditch" and the Oswego canal), meant a great future for it. At that time the village was surrounded in all directions, except towards the hills in the northeast by an almost bottomless cedar swamp, rendered passable in early time, only by means of corduroy, made by placing logs close together across the road.

At that time Syracuse had the unenviable reputation of being about the roughest and most unhealthy place in the State of New York, due to the salt boilers from "Salt Point," mosquitos from the everlasting swamp and the prevailing miasmatic fever.

Then as now, Salina street at the crossing of the Erie canal, was the busiest "vortex." Standing upon the high arching bridge at this point and looking northward the view in that direction was blocked by the old Court House, then standing apparently at the farthest end of the street, at about the present corner of Ash street in the Second Ward.

Back of the Court House, upon the edge of a pine grove thicket, stood the jail, which I have good reason to remember, for one day a negro was hung there, and among a number of other boys who were attending Dr. Mayo's school—at intersection of Church with West Genesee street,—and who being unable to

SOUTH SALINA STREET BRIDGE, 1840





get "excused," ran away in order to "assist" on that memorable occasion.

The jail yard containing the gallows, was temporarily surrounded by a high board fence and some of us in order to secure a better view, climbed the adjacent pine trees, thus getting our hands well daubed with tell tale pitch, not easily removed, and which exposed our truancy at home and culminated in punishment not soon forgotten.

At that time looking north from the Salina street bridge, over and beyond the Oswego canal bridge, but very few and scattering homes were to be seen. Near the bridge at the entrance to Robbers Row were substantial brick buildings.

The south side of Robbers Row was pretty solidly built up, and here was done the principal grocery business of the town, which consisted largely in supplying passing boatmen with what they needed.

The principal merchants were Waggoner, (corner of Salina); Leslie's, (father of David and John); the Cadwells, William K. Blair and B. C. Lathrop, (at the Warren street end of the block.) At the east end of Robbers Row, north side, was the unimposing but somewhat notorious *Greyhound* Tavern.

Crossing Salina street about where Willow street now is, was quite a stream, conveying the waste water from the weigh lock, situated at the crossing of the Oswego canal by Foot street (now James street.)

Upon a slight elevation, just beyond where this creek crossed Salina street, fronted by a considerable grass plot, stood the noticeable residence of the father of our highly esteemed Judge William J. Wallace of the United States Circuit Court.

This stream after crossing Salina street ran parallel to said street to McKinstry's soap and candle factory of odiferous memory, and then turned westward and emptied into the Onondaga creek near the old elm tree swimming hole, a famous resort for the youngsters of that day.

Just west of this creek, near Salina street and about where Noxon street now is, was at that time quite a grove of pine trees

and beyond this grove, extending clear to the Onondaga creek, the ground was entirely occupied by solar salt vats, built on stilts, affording excellent hiding places for the boys in their play.

Clinton Square at this time was the wood market and in the winter, during good sleighing was often crowded with teams loaded with maple and beach. This was before the railroads brought coal to Syracuse.

On the north side of Clinton Square was a long two story tavern called the Mansion House, afterwards replaced by the Voorhees and the Empire. At the west end of the square stood an unimposing three-story brick building, painted yellow, dear to the hearts of many a youngster of the time, for here was Phinney's Theater and Museum of Natural Curiosities.

Here I witnessed my first theatrical exhibition—the play, I remember was “The Golden Farmer,” which probably to-day would be insufferably stupid—but I enjoyed it amazingly. Here also was given the first of the negro minstrel performances, these being just brought out, “Zip Coon, Jim Crow,” etc. I shall never forget the uproarious applause which greeted “Turn about and whirl about and do just so,” “turn about and whirl about and jump Jim Crow,” ending in a break-down dance.

Looking from the bridge along West Genesee street the view ended at the old Red Mill, where the High School building now stands.

Across the street, south of the Red Mill was the saw mill of Fred Horner and the mill pond full of floating logs, which tempted venturesome boys to jeopardize their lives by following the leader with nimble feet across the dancing timber.

“Ah! those days, those days!” West Genesee street beyond the rickety bridge across the creek afforded no attraction. A monotonous field of salt vat covers was spread out on both sides of the unattractive highways almost to the Geddes line.

Looking from the bridge, facing the south, we had Hanover Square at our left, Salina street to the south and Water street on our right hand.

On the south side of Hanover Square, next to the Syracuse

House, was the Postoffice and farther towards the east were about all the dry goods stores in town.

The Episcopal Church occupied the ground where the "Flatiron" block was afterwards built and at the far east end of the square stood an insignificant two-story structure, since replaced by the more imposing Bastable Block. Salina street virtually ended at the Larned House, where the old "Cinder road" now West Onondaga street branches to the south and west; beyond the Larned House, fields and pastures began.

At the right hand corner of Salina and Water streets and opposite (west) of the Syracuse House stood a four-story brick building occupied by Horace and Charles A. Wheaton as a hardware store, this building was destroyed by fire in 1849, rebuilt by Dr. Wieting and destroyed again by fire in 1856, and again rebuilt by Dr. Wieting.

The next building on Water street was also occupied as a hardware store by Malcolm & Hudson, (who were held responsible for) I remember the terrible explosion of gun powder at the carpenter shop of Charley Goings, (corner of Willow street and Oswego canal), on the night of August 20th, 1841; resulting in the loss of twenty-seven lives and the serious injuring of more than fifty people.

The horror of that night is vividly impressed upon my memory. We were living on Salina street, near Fayette; my father was absent from home and my mother woke us from a sound sleep, saying that something dreadful had happened, people were hurrying past the house, all going north, and she asked me to go and see what was the matter. I followed as far as Church street, when the way became blocked by the crowd.

They were carrying injured people into the Onondaga House. I followed and found the floors covered with the dead, the dying and the injured.

One of the first persons, attracting my attention was Dr. Hiram Hoyt, the distinguished surgeon, bending over the bruised form of D. C. LeRoy, whose head and face seemed to me almost an indistinguishable mass of bleeding flesh. I distinctly remem-

ber hearing LeRoy, in a perfectly calm and self-possessed manner, ask the Doctor, if there was any chance for recovery and his pluck probably did much toward saving his life. Nearby lay a boy whom I knew well, William Lilly, who recovered and afterwards did creditable service as color bearer in the 12th Regiment, N. Y. S. V.

Another whom I knew, Zebina Dwight, a noble young man, lay dead upon the floor, while his heart broken wife stood wringing her hands and distractedly exclaiming "he never, never uttered an unkind word to me in my life."

There was blood everywhere. Nearly every house in the vicinity was turned into an emergency hospital.

Next day (Saturday) all business houses were closed—on Sunday funerals were marching in many directions. Country people flocked in from all directions.

Trains from neighboring cities brought crowds and among them were many sympathizing firemen, for among the victims were several well known members of the Volunteer Fire Department, active, energetic business men from among the best families.

Looking south from the bridge, but few buildings were conspicuous. Two-story buildings extended down each side of Salina street to what is now Washington or Railroad street.

On the southwest corner of Salina and Railroad streets was the business office of John Wilkinson who lived in a plain and unpretentious dwelling with a spacious lawn in front, in same enclosure with his office.

Two or three frame houses with grass plots in front stood next to the Wilkinson place and on the northwest corner of Fayette street stood the tavern of William B. Kirk; across the street from Kirk's' stood the Keeler tavern.

The Presbyterian church stood at the northeast corner of Fayette and Salina street and north of the church was a large garden in the center of which stood the residence of Dr. Phillips, a popular physician.

The packet boats landed all their passengers on the south side

of the canal basin and just west of Salina street, and lively times always prevailed upon the arrival of boats bringing passengers from Albany, Buffalo and Oswego.

The Syracuse House was nearby and its landlord, "Phile" Rust was renowned for keeping the best hotel west of Albany.

In the absence of the social facilities of the modern club, the ample porches and reception rooms of the Syracuse House became the popular assembling place for citizens and strangers.

An old timer once remarked to me, that he remembered whenever a stranger came to town, they managed to "pan him out" and if they learned that he had \$3,000, or \$4,000, they concluded it best to cultivate his acquaintance.

I am stringing this out too long, but I could go on and fill a ream of paper with reminiscences of the dear old town, which no one ever left without the desire to return.

## MEMOIR OF SYRACUSE CADETS.

(By M. H. Jacobs.)

The Syracuse Cadets, a military company organized in the summer of 1842. I thought that it would be interesting to some to read something of the history of that enterprising company, composed, as it was, mostly of young men just entering the years of their manhood, full of life and young vigor, and hungering for something to satisfy their aspirations for excitement and laudable pleasure.

I do not expect to give all the details of the incidents which occurred, and have forgotten many names who were members, but shall endeavor to state some of their history according to the best of my recollection.

In the year 1842, many of the leading citizens of our village expressed the desire to form an independent military company; the villages of Auburn and Utica had their military companies and would often come as an escort to our village with some distinguished personage and we became ashamed that we had no military organization to receive them in due form and to escort them to the next village on their way,—accordingly a meeting of citizens interested in forming a company and who were willing to join was called. Those who attended the meeting were mostly men of middle age and many of them were prominent in business. Several of us young men met with them and expressed our willingness to join, but the older portion of those present did not like the idea of boys joining and, in order to get rid of us, adjourned without organizing, with a secret purpose to meet soon without the boys being present, but we soon found out the trick and decided to flank those older heads. Before organizing the company, Captain Teall gave five of us young men—enough to officer a company—instructions in the position of the soldier, facing, marching and wheeling for five weeks, two hours every week day evening. He would stand on a chair behind us and put his knee between our shoulders and pull our arms back, with our little fingers on the outside seam of our pants to make us erect and cure our round shoulders; he would put us in position and say, “now don’t you stir a hand if forty spiders are crawling up your nose,” he would keep us there until our bones ached.

I drew up a form of enrollment in proper shape and in forty-eight hours had forty names, which was the statute number to organize a company; these men then were notified to meet for organization and the election of officers.

Timothy H. Teall, formerly of West Point, was elected Captain.

William B. Olmsted, First Lieutenant.

Joseph Hayden, Second Lieutenant.

M. H. Jacobs, Orderly and Drill Sergeant.

Other non-commissioned officers were elected as the regulations required. At 12 o'clock that night Captain Teall boarded the train for Albany to obtain our commissions and accoutrements, thus by prompt action we secured our commissions, etc., ahead of the old men and outranked them. We organized as light infantry, became flanking company on the right of the regiment and the old men organized as artillery, which made them the flanking company on the left of the regiment. For this shrewdness the old corps never forgave us. We bought a fatigue uniform of gray, but no full dress uniform, as several members were in their apprenticeship and could not afford it, but gave strict attention to our drill tactics; sometimes when they would turn out for a parade through the village we would turn out also and while we would form hollow square around them, and retreat before them in street firing back at them with blank cartridges, we could keep out of their way, while citizens clapped their hands in applause.

We had a rule to turn out in time of fire to protect property, we desired to make ourselves useful as well as ornamental and we were considered by most military men one of the best disciplined companies in the State. Captain Teall taught us to keep in proper position and handle our guns with our hands and arms without moving our bodies and to do our marching with our legs and not sway the body.

On the night of January 1st, 1844, we met for drill in our armory in the Granger Block. After drill was over and company dismissed I stepped into the office of Lieutenant William B. Olmsted, architect in the east end of the block, as I was a pupil of his.

About half past nine I heard guns firing, I stepped to the window on Railroad street and raised it and heard a woman's voice giving orders, fire, fire, and they did fire. I said, "Olmsted, there is a riot, we may be called out, shall I go into the armory, throw up the window and give a drum call?" "Yes," said he. I did so and about twenty-five responded. A company of rough men who had drank heavily entered the bar room of the German Hotel on the corner where the Vanderbilt Hotel now stands and insulted the landlady and broke down the beer pump. Her husband was looking after the preparations for the evening supper. His wife ran into the dining room crying and said she "had been insulted," which proved to be quite true. The landlord went into the bar and asked who had insulted his wife. Bill Blake answered "I did," and the landlord shot him through the neck; he fell to the floor bleeding, all the crowd chased from the room cursing and saying, "kill the dutchman;" the dutchman caught Blake by the collar and dragged him out on to the sidewalk and fastened the door and retreated to the chamber. The mob began stoning the house and the German and his friends fired out of the windows; we just put on our accoutrements and awaited orders. Sheriff Heber Wetherby was at the Syracuse House and had just been sworn into office that day; soon Russell Hibbard, the deputy sheriff came and ordered us to load with ball and buckshot and hasten down and form in front of the hotel on the railroad, with orders if there was any more firing after we arrived, then fire into the house; when we formed there the woman called out, "o de soger man, the soger man," and they ceased firing. Sheriff Hibbard and Lieutenant Olmsted came and detailed five of us from the right of the company to accompany them into the house, and arrest the inmates; we found the front door locked. Lieutenant Olmsted put his heel opposite the lock and the door opened. He then bounded upstairs, opened the door into the front chamber and saw the big landlord standing on the opposite side of the room with pistol in hand pointing straight at him. Olmsted sprang forward and seized the pistol to wrench it out of his hand and, as he did so, the hammer of the lock came down on the skin between

his thumb and forefinger and in another instant our bayonets were under his nose, which made him stretch up taller. We captured eleven persons and brought all into the front chamber; we then started to go down stairs. As we were passing out of the room into the hall, All Davis, a friend of Drake, who was shot, raised a large club with both hands to strike the German. Lieutenant Olmsted seized Davis by the wrist and in a twinkling jerked him to the head of the stairs and put the point of his sword into his back, so it cooled him down. He ordered him down stairs and put Nicholas Nickels over him as guard; we then passed to the street and formed to march to the jail which was located on Townsend street opposite Turn Hall in the now Second Ward of the city; as we were forming a hollow square around the prisoners there was a move by the mob to assault the prisoners and we were obliged to fix bayonets outward and come to a position of charge on the mob. As we did so a large stone passed by my head and struck the landlord between the shoulders; it nearly felled him to the ground; the mob seeing that we meant business desisted and we marched up North Salina street arriving at the jail. The prisoners were received by Mr. Cook, the jailor, and I was left in charge with a guard of eight men, as the mob had threatened to tear the jail down. It was a bitter cold night with about one foot of snow. I mounted guard with four men with instructions not to allow a cat to pass without the countersign (which was January first.) It was so cold that I relieved guard every hour; the jailor gave us lots of mine pie, sweet cider and doughnuts. When the company returned from the jail they found the mob were destroying the hotel; they had the chairs and window blinds piled in the street and burning; the table was all set and the turkey and other edibles were on it, and it was said, that Caleb Davis mounted the table and with a double shuffle the whole length of it knocked everything off of it and then took the turkey by the legs and smashed it through the windows. Then somebody turned the faucets, destroyed all provisions and stole several hundred five franc pieces from a chest. When all had been quieted down and put under guard, Captain Teall then came to the jail;

he found four cadets on guard, one on each side. He said he was pleased to find a guard in good order; but thought he would play a trick on me and the boys; there was a grove of large pine trees where the Townsend School House now stands which was on the back side of the jail with a common board fence, and there was also a high board fence around the back side of the jail. The Captain thought he could creep along behind the board fence in the grove till he came opposite the yard fence of the jail, then when the guard turned to go eastward he would jump the board fence, run across the street, which was not wide, scale the yard fence at the jail and get a good rig on us boys. George Risinger the cigarmaker, was guard on that side and when the Captain came across the road George hailed him, "Stand, who goes there," he said this three times, running towards the Captain as fast as he could; when he had hailed him three times, he called out three times and cocked his gun to fire. The Captain was then up on top of the jail yard fence, a fine mark with the sky as a background. The Captain heard the lock of the gun click and threw up his arms and screamed Captain. He was so frightened that it was some time before he got over it, for George Risinger was as true a man as ever handled a musket and he would have shot him in another second. The next day our cadets escorted the prisoners down to the office of Major Cook, who was then Justice of the Peace, for examination. The man was justified by Major Cook and acquitted, but he dare not be found in the streets, as there was so many who threatened his life; so he took rooms with Mr. Filkins, who kept boarding house in the Larned Block, and I was detailed with six men to guard the house; there was a broad stairway on the Warren street side; we were given the parlor for quarters with one man on picket duty at the head of the stairs, but we were not molested. The German and his family left town and went West. Blake recovered after much suffering; the ball grazed his jugular vein, tearing his neck badly. It was a potent warning to him and his associates to keep sober.

In the spring of 1844, I moved to the village of Salina and resigned my position as orderly of the Syracuse Cadets and be-

came a member of Colonel Hales staff and J. W. Jones was appointed acting Orderly Sergeant in my stead, as appears on the old warrant.

At the time of the general review in the fall of 1844, all independent companies in the village and militia of the county were called out. When Colonel Hale formed the regiment in line he placed the Citizens Corps at the head of the column and the Cadets on the left, without consulting the cadets; this act depriving them of their legal position, according to their rank, put the Cadets in a rage. They bore up under it all the forenoon; most of the regiment dined at the Syracuse House kept by Philo Rust. They stacked their arms on the lower piazza on the Salina street side; they were boiling over with rage at the insult which had been given them; they made some threats, and when the line formed at Salina street after dinner to march to the field for review the Cadets did not form with the regiment; they formed on the piazza, unstacked their guns and came to the position of rest until the column began to move around the corner of East Genesee street. The Cadets were in charge of First Lieutenant William B. Olmsted, Captain T. H. Teall having died; when the Citizens Corps came opposite the right flank of the Cadets on East Genesee street, Lieutenant Olmsted gave the command right flank, double quick march. The band struck up a lively tune and the boys skipped off the piazza and across East Genesee street, walking completely over the Citizens Corps; some were pushed down and one man, Reuben Blossom, had a nervous fit and was carried to the Syracuse House piazza, there was some confusion just about then.

Two German companies, who took sides with the Cadets, left the line and with the Cadets formed on Water street, while the other companies came to order and marched down East Genesee street and to the parade field, located where Adams street now is, near Warren street. The Cadets, with the two German companies, one of which Jacob Pfhol was captain, also marched to the field and formed a separate batallion. For this rash act Lieutenant Olmsted was Court Marshalled, tried and fined and broke off his

office, which caused the Cadets to become disheartened and they disbanded. Some of those dear boys proved to be brave valuable men to their country in after years. Moses Brower, brother of Hiram Brower, the locksmith, I think was captain in the old 12th N. Y. Volunteers in the Southern Rebellion and was killed fighting for the Union. I think that he was one of the five who was so thoroughly drilled by Captain Teall. Rufus Pettit, an apprentice with Elijah T. Hayden, learning the carpenter trade, joined the company after it had been organized some little time,—it fell to my lot to break him in; he was perfectly willing to do everything that was required, but he tried so hard to learn that when put in the position of a soldier he seemed as stiff as a stake, he was round shouldered,—I mounted a chair, put my knee to his back and drew his shoulders back, put his hands down with little fingers on the seams of his pants and let him stand awhile, then put him through his facings, but when I came to teach him march time, and march to count I learned there was no time in him and I actually took hold of his feet with my hands so as to aid him to keep step in time, but he was so willing that he soon mastered it all and became one of the most thorough disciplined men in the company. He enlisted in the United States Army for the Mexican War. I was told of a very interesting incident concerning him in the seige of the capital. A battery was engaged trying to shoot down a flag on the Mexican Capitol building. Mr. Pettit's captain, who also commanded a battery said, "I know a man who will bring that flag down." "Well," said the Captain, whose battery was firing, "trot him out and he shall have a chance." Pettit was called and asked if he could do it; he replied, "I can try," and he did try. He took his time to calculate the distance with his eye, then to elevate the gun so as to hit the object at that distance; all ready (bang) and down came the flag. There was some cheering and praise and he was given charge of a battery. He came home when the time of enlistment expired and located at Baldwinsville and when the war of the late Rebellion broke out raised a rifle company and went through the war. I think he is still living.

George Risinger, Charles Phelps and Thomas Sessions and the writer are also yet living; I do not know whether there are any others. Spencer P. Rust and the writer learned the art of small sword fencing of Captain Simmons of the Regular Army, who was in Syracuse as a recruiting officer at that time; we resorted for outdoor practice to a pine grove on Townsend street, which was in the rear of the old James R. Lawrence residence; the grove is gone and Spencer also and fifty-three years never to return.

Life is short and time is fleeting,  
Though our hearts are strong and brave,  
Still like muffled drums, their beating  
Funeral marches to the grave.

Grief murmurs,  
Anger roars,  
Impatience frets,

But happiness (or holiness) flows on in a quiet sunlight without a ripple or a frill to mark the rushing on of time towards eternity.

The accompanying orders for notifying the members to attend a meeting for the election of officers dated August 2nd, 1844, on the evening of August 7th at headquarters, Syracuse Cadets Military Hall, which was in the old Amos P. Granger Block, I found among some old papers; this to me is a choice old relic and reminder of earlier days of happy association:

HEADQUARTERS, SYRACUSE CADETS MILITARY HALL.

ORDERS, No 8.

*To Corporal B. L. Higgins:*

You are hereby ordered to notify the persons whose names are hereunder written, to be and appear for *Election of Officers*, at The Armory of The Syracuse Cadets, Granger Block, the seventh day of August at 8 o'clock in the evening of that day; and for so doing, this shall be your sufficient warrant. Hereof fail

not; and make due return to me of what you shall do in the premises.

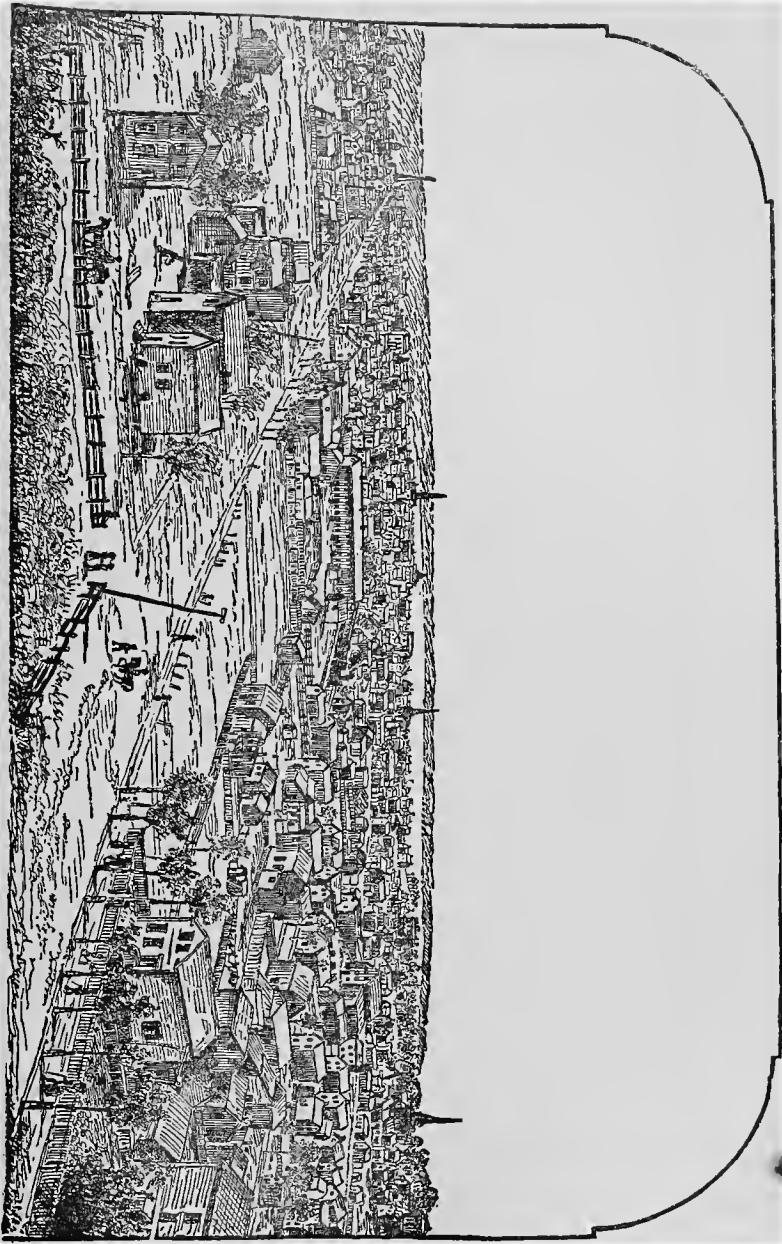
Dated at Syracuse, this second day of August, A. D., 1844.  
J. W. JONES, *Act. Orderly.*

Platt Adams, Amos B. Baldwin, Elish M. Higgins, W. W. Fairfield, P. W. Fisher, C. M. St. John, Rufus Rose, David Ellsworth, Allen Butler, Thos. W. Roberts, Chas. Phelps, Richard Bomfry, Moses Brower, Joseph Hayden, Spencer P. Rust, Chas. Kellogg, John Green, George Davis, Squire J. Green, Rufus Petitt, George Risinger, Capt. Timothy H. Teall, Wm. B. Olmsted, Lieut.; Thomas Sessions, Nicholas Nickels, M. H. Jacobs, Peter Lockey, Samuel Oliver.

I, the within named, B. L. Higgins, do hereby certify that the persons named in the within warrant, were duly warned by me, as within directed, in manner following, viz: Those marked R, by reading the said warrant; those marked P, by stating the substance thereof; those marked N, by leaving a notice thereof, signed by me, at their usual places of abode; and those marked A, by affixing such notice on the outer door of their respective houses.

B. L. HIGGINS, *Corporal.*

SYRACUSE IN THE LAST YEAR OF VILLAGE, AND FIRST YEAR OF ITS CITY LIFE. (FROM THE ORPHAN ASYLUM.)



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